



HOWNIIKAN

Zisbaktogegises / April 2016

Top Photo: Three years ago Wadase was released into the wild. The staff of the CPN Eagle Aviary looks back at her progress from juvenile bald eagle to young adult.

CPCDC staff offer tax preparation services



Consumer Lending Manager Tina Pollard offers help to those in need during tax season.

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Trae Trousdale serves on State Advisory Council



Tribal member Trae Trousdale, a Tecumseh High School student, offers his take on Oklahoma education as a member of the state superintendent advisory council.

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Economist Joseph Kalt studies CPN impact in Oklahoma

Since the mid-1970s there has been a shift in federal Indian policy toward self-determination, which in general refers to the belief that Indian nations should determine their own futures. Joseph P. Kalt, the Ford Foundation Professor (Emeritus) of International Political Economy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, describes this opportunity as both political and organizational, saying it was “not simply a chance to start a business or exploit an economic niche, but an opportunity to substantially reshape the future for Indian tribes.”

With federal Indian policy moving in the right direction, tribes are tasked with asserting their sovereignty against the interests and resistance of state governments and other entities that make claims to tribal resources. Tribes must also have the ability to back up their assertions of self-governance with the ability to govern effectively.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has done this with a constitutional reform project in 2007. The reform expanded the legislative body to include representatives from across the United States; clearly defined the separation of governmental powers among the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government; and removed, wherever possible, the United States Secretary of the Interior from tribal governmental processes.

Consistent tribal leadership has also benefited CPN. While many tribal governments see turnover in the executive branch every two to four years, CPN has prospered under the leadership of Tribal Chairman John Barrett and Vice-Chairman Linda Capps.

While it might seem like an ordinary task for governments to draft constitutions or have elected leaders, the impact, both present and future for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, will likely determine the very survival of the tribe. Professor Kalt has stated that sovereignty, nation-building and economic development go hand-in-hand.

“Without sovereignty and nation-building,” he says, “economic development is likely to remain a frustratingly elusive dream.”

Through the Harvard Project (since at least 1987) and NNI (since 2001), Joseph Kalt has conducted extensive research and teaching on the econom-



The Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s economic impact in Oklahoma is a net positive according to a recent study by Joseph P. Kalt.

ic, social, and political development of American Indian reservations, as well as the political economy of Indian tribes, federal Indian policy, and tribal-state, county and municipal relations. Most recently, he put his expertise to practice and studied the impact of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Oklahoma.

Once the federal government and tribes realized that federal funding would be inadequate to serve the needs of tribes, the federal government began to formulate a policy which would allow tribal governments to take advantage of their unique status as sovereign nations. The most profound policy developed from this revelation has been the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, and more recently the HEARTH Act. Many tribes in Oklahoma use the money generated from their gaming enterprises to reinvest in tribal operations.

Kalt has stated in his research that if tribes self-govern, they must possess the resources to do so. Citizen Potawatomi Nation has developed a diverse portfolio of enterprises, which offer a wide range and robust number of jobs that also strengthen the tribal economy.

“What the research keeps finding is that economic development, kind of solving of the social problems, even the strengthening of culture depends on the presence of stable and effective tribal government. Without it, everything else falls apart. You can’t hang onto a good language teacher; you can’t hang on to a good police chief if everything is chaos. And so tribes like Citizen Potawatomi are looked to as an example of what it means to put in place effective insti-

tutions of local self-governance under these federal policies of self-determination,” Kalt stated.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has become the economic engine of Pottawatomie County, creating 70 percent of new jobs and having an economic impact of more than \$540 million annually. That success has drawn the attention of revenue shy local municipalities and the State of Oklahoma, which is facing a nearly \$1 billion budget shortfall, leading to unwarranted grabs for tribal revenue. Kalt focused his research around that central question—who has the most interest in tribal revenue?

“I believe the evidence I talk about in my report is clear that, in fact, the State of Oklahoma does not have any uncompensated burdens,” Kalt stated. “In fact, it’s benefiting from having a wealthy neighbor - or getting (a) wealthier neighbor that is producing its own GDP now, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, that benefits the State of Oklahoma. And there’s no evidence that I can find that indicates that the state is suffering some uncompensated burden as a result of the tribe’s success in developing its own economy.”

Still, the State of Oklahoma claims that it can place any burden it desires on the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, including imposing state sales tax at tribal owned enterprises. According to Kalt, this action would ultimately put the State of Oklahoma and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in a worse situation.

“The incremental additions that Citizen Potawatomi Nation has made,

Continued on page 2

Home ownership opportunities a challenge for many Native American housing programs

It's a topic that has vexed even the most highly regarded economists and government officials; how do you incentivize a hand up before it becomes a hand out? Assistance, or welfare, from government entities remains a topic of constant debate in the U.S. and other Western nations, where incentives to use such programs before moving up the economic ladder fall short when users run into everyday realities.

As noted in a 2013 report by [National Public Radio](#), for many, it can pay not to work. Though some cities and states raised minimum wage levels to keep up with the ever-rising costs of living in recent years, in 2014 Oklahoma passed a law seizing [local control from cities who wish introduce such raises](#).

For those using such programs as a stepping stone to a better life, once they improve their economic situation, many come to a crossroads. They have to choose taking a higher paying job whose pay may not cover costs for the resulting loss in benefits for childcare, food and utility service assistance.

This dilemma is a familiar one to CPN Housing Director Scott George. He started his career with the Sac and Fox Nation Housing Authority in 1994 and since 2013 has served as the director of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's housing department. Over the course of more than two decades in the tribal housing sector, he has seen well intentioned home ownership programs fall short of their goals due to economic realities.

The good old days

The now defunct Mutual Help Program once offered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development required potential homeowners to put in a so called "sweat equity" instead of a lump sum down payment on a newly constructed home.

"They asked that you put in so many hours during the construction of your new home, picking up the trash, cleaning the site, things like that," recalled George. "Then you moved in to a house that was tailored to the size of your family."

HUD's funding formula for housing assistance was calculated on the income of the owner. Typically it was a monthly payment computed at 30 percent of the owner's take home pay. The remaining actual cost of the mortgage and homeowners insur-



Getting someone into a tribal home is not as straightforward as is thought.

ance was subsidized by the federal government. Owners had to make 20 years of house payments – at roughly 30 percent of their income – before they officially owned the home.

That subsidization factor had a negative impact though.

"No matter what your income was, in 20 years, you were going to own that house free and clear. The mistake in that was that they didn't put a cap on how much you would pay," said George.

While that stipulation helped low wage earners often left out of home ownership opportunities by subsidizing their payments, the downside was that those who worked to move up the income ladder ended up being penalized for it.

"So back in those days, you could have been paying \$600-700 in monthly payments on a house worth only \$70,000, when you could have owned a bigger home towards the end," he said. "If you looked at it, it was inequitable. It was a disincentive to make more money because while you might pay it off sooner, you now owned what was called an 'Indian home' that was unsellable on the secondary market."

The subsidization also compensated for a lack of income if owners were out of a job. George explained that as long as owners could make enough to pay for utilities and the home's "admin fee," which could be as low as \$20, some chose not to work at all. The home would be theirs in 20 years regardless.

"I know people who would quit jobs and go collect cans to make enough money to pay the admin fee," he recalled.

takes in. So it's got - it's got a positive payoff at the margin. What that means is - what that means is, yes, any tax the State of Oklahoma imposes, which reduces the incremental contributions of the CPN, makes its neighbor poorer, will tend to make Oklahoma poorer. Now, that's of the facts of this situation. That's not necessarily true everywhere. It's just that you're sitting next to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation," Kalt stated.

Tribal housing authorities take control

The 1996 passage of Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act – or NAHASDA - was a water shed moment for tribal housing authorities. Following its implementation, HUD distributed money to tribes directly. Tribal housing authorities used those funds and oversaw the needs of Native Americans living in homes built by the tribes themselves.

One stipulation that many tribal housing authorities enacted for their homes was credit worthiness. This is a high hurdle across the U.S. housing market, regardless of ethnicity. It has been especially difficult since the 2008 economic crisis.

For tribal housing departments like CPN's, income limits imposed via the funding agreements with the federal government continue to hamper the ability to provide housing.

"We still use the same income guidelines we were in our for mutual help programs. We can't assist anybody outside of those income and credit limits," he said.

For instance, if a single person makes more than \$43,000 a year, or a family of two has a combined income of roughly that same amount, the tribal housing department cannot offer home ownership opportunities. Even if a potential home owner does meet those narrow guidelines, if they have recently purchased a car – a vital necessity where no mass transportation exists – they may not be deemed credit worthy.

Also, high income-to-debt ratios due to student loans risk disqualifying other applicants, even though indi-

What Kalt ultimately concluded in his research is that the federal and tribal interests overwhelm any arguable interests the State of Oklahoma would have in collecting tax at tribal businesses. In fact, Kalt says in his research that he can find no evidence that any burden placed on Oklahoma that is not directly or indirectly more than compensated for by direct payments from CPN for gaming, state income tax collections from the peo-

viduals with [degrees tend to become higher earners as their careers progress](#).

Changing a familiar pattern

It is the lower-to-middle class trap; where the incentives to move up the economic ladder are undercut by the stipulations on the original form of assistance.

George noted that his department finds itself ruling out many applicants before the paperwork is even completed.

"Now what we're seeing is this small window of people who qualify to have a house. Because those that make too much money don't qualify, and those who don't make enough money can't make the payments."

He explained that this frustrating set of circumstances is shared across many tribal housing programs. Counterparts in some tribes have even gone back to the mutual help programs. Though as the long-tenured tribal housing professional explains, even if a homeowner successfully navigates the full term of subsidized payments and becomes a home owner, many are unprepared for the true costs of home ownership.

"Because someone paid the taxes and insurance on it the entire time, you never knew what the actual cost of it all was," explained George. "Once you own your home, the actual costs of these overwhelm people because they may not be insurable or they may not have any credit history. Then they lose their homes."

Hope is not lost however. The housing department is in the process of exploring solutions to some of these problems, including a mentorship program that brings in potential home owners who may have subpar credit and works to improve it. Currently, George says his department regularly fields inquiries from this demographic, but once they learn of the credit requirements, his staff rarely hears back.

"We're exploring some options to help those who may have bruised credit due to a medical bill or something like that who could make payments," he said. "We need to show them a light at the end of the tunnel, so they aren't put off at first. For us, it might give us a better way to forecast how many houses we need to buy or build and better use our housing funds."

ple that CPN directly and indirectly supports and the economic impact of the tribe.

"The imposition by the State of Oklahoma of the tax on CPN would be contrary to the United States' federal interest in the economic self-sufficiency and effective self-government of federally-recognized tribes such as the Citizen Potawatomi Nation," Kalt concluded.

Impact continued...

whether it hires 26 or 20 or 25 policemen, whether it provides 171,000 physician visits or only 169,000, the incremental additions that it is making generate because of who the employees are, and because of the taxes it already pays, generate more to the State of Oklahoma, as a whole, including the citizens, including tax revenues, all that together, than it

Tribal members eligible for home buyer and refinancing grant

By Sherry Byers,
CPN Housing Department

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Housing Department has a “One Time Grant” available to enrolled Tribal members who are going to purchase, build or refinance a home. This grant is for closing costs or down payment only.

All Citizen Potawatomi tribal members are eligible for this grant for *one time only*. The maximum amount available is \$2,125 and does not have to be repaid. The criteria for this program are:

- The grant cannot be used for any type of mobile home.
- The grant cannot be used by convicted felons or for households where other members are felons.
- The home being purchased must be their primary residence and the Tribal member’s name must be on the loan.

The application must be completed thoroughly and the following submitted:

- Copy of borrower’s CPN membership card.

- Copy of the “Loan Estimate” from lender.
- Income verification for all household members (last three to four pay stubs or if they’ve been with the same employer for years, the last two years of tax returns).
- Name of the Closing Entity (Title Co., Escrow Co., Attorney, etc.).
- Completed W-9 form.
- Copy of appraisal when available.

The application and support information is required in our office at least two to three weeks prior to the closing date. This gives our office enough time to get the paperwork processed and the check mailed back to the tribal member by the specified date.

If the time frame does not allow the grant to be requested before closing, we can also do the grant after closing. Different documents will be requested and it must be requested within 30 days of the closing date.

To request the application and/or general information regarding the “One Time Grant,” please contact Sherry Byers, Homeownership Man-



A CPN Tribal Housing Department home in Tecumseh, Oklahoma.


ager at (405) 273-2833 or at sbyers@potawatomi.org.

In addition to assisting individual Tribal members with this grant program, we would also like to see the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s First National Bank and Trust benefit by originating the mortgage loans. FNB is able to offer most loan programs, offered by other lending institutions, except loan types affiliated with predatory lenders.

For information regarding loan products and lending requirements at

First National Bank and Trust, please contact Jeff Scroggins, Mortgage Loan Officer at (405) 275-8830 or at 1-800-227-8362.

It is interesting to know that there are still many uninformed CPN members out there, when it comes to information regarding this program and the tribal bank. Our office receives calls daily from Tribal members that never knew of this grant or that the tribe owns their own bank. Please spread the word with your CPN family members.



Citizen Potawatomi Nation BY THE NUMBERS

Total Tribal Population	2,637	Age by population
Scholarships in Spring 2016	124	
Phoenix, AZ	113	90-99 14
Lubbock, TX	87	80-89 62
Denver, CO	81	70-79 177
Colorado Springs, CO	78	60-69 358
Tucson, AZ	67	50-59 394
Amarillo, TX	66	40-49 404
Mesa, AZ	47	30-39 504
Glendale, AZ	45	20-29 561
Albuquerque, NM	43	13-19 340
Salt Lake City, UT	26	01-12 227

DISTRICT 5

Information provided by Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Rolls



2016 FAMILY REUNION FESTIVAL HONORED FAMILIES

CLARDY | FRAPP | KAHDOT | JUNEAU | PAPPAN | CRUMBO | MULLER

From the archives of the heritage center



We look back at pieces in the archives and collections inside the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center. This item, created in the 1880s, is beautiful loom beaded *yazhwango’gen* – or bandolier bag. It exhibits a classic Ho-Chunk design in both geometric and floral patterns.



Within the CHC’s ethnology collection is the cane of prominent Citizen Potawatomi leader and Burnett family patriarch Nan Wesh Mah [Abram B. Burnett], on long-term loan from the Kansas History Center. The cane is 36” in length, with a removable 16.5” acid-etched dirk or dagger.

PLP Alum visits NCAI

Isaac Morris, 2014 PLP participant and current PLP counselor had a chance to shadow the employees of the National Congress of American Indians on a recent trip to Washington D.C. We caught up with the PLP alum to ask about the experience.

What was the purpose for your visit to DC?

“The East Central University’s Political Science and Legal Studies department travels to Washington D.C. every two years to take part in the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Research Conference at George Washington University.”

How did you get connected with NCAI?

“During the D.C. trip, the students are given an opportunity to intern with a congressman/woman, interest group, or law firm of their choice. Those are not all of the choices. The students can pretty much pick any group they would

like as long as the group is able to have them intern for a day. My advisor/professor, Dr. Christine Pappas, contacted Jamie Gomez at NCAI to see if I would be able to intern at her office.”

Why did you choose to shadow NCAI?

“I have had an interest in tribal politics for the past few years, so I wanted to intern with an organization that advocates for better tribal policies and also works for the betterment of tribes in America.”

Which departments did you shadow at NCAI?

“When I first arrived in the morning, I shadowed Jamie Gomez, the director of external affairs, and in the afternoon I shadowed Denise Desiderio, the policy and legislative director.”

What did you learn about NCAI?

“I learned they are very busy. I also learned that NCAI works with vari-

ous other native organizations which also advocate for the betterment of tribes in America. They are currently working on Native Vote, a campaign aimed at showing the importance of voting for all Native Americans.”

What should others know about NCAI?

“NCAI is not a lobbyist group. The general public should also know that NCAI is here to help all tribes better themselves for future generations, not to just help a select few. They should also know that NCAI works alongside Native American Rights Fund to try to get certain cases heard by the Supreme Court to change laws that impact Indian Country.”

How do you think this experience will impact your education?

“This experience has already had a huge impact on my education and career, in that I am considering focusing more on policy concerns compared to law when it comes to impacting Indian Country. After this



Isaac Morris

experience, I feel that I can have a bigger impact on Indian Country by creating policy whether than trying to overturn current policies with the law.”

Potawatomi education update: April 2016

By Tesia Zientek,
CPN Education Director

As the weather warms up and spring approaches, the time has come for eligible students to submit their application for the Potawatomi Leadership Program. Since 2003, we have invited 18-20 year-old tribal members with a 3.0 GPA who have not completed more than one year of college to spend six weeks in Shawnee, Oklahoma. PLP students get an exclusive glimpse into the culture, governance and economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. As PLP advisor, I strongly feel that the program affords a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to connect to your tribe.

By this point, all eligible students on our tribal rolls should have received a mailed invitation letter from Vice-Chairman Linda Capps and a flyer outlining the details of the program. This year, the program will begin the Friday before the Family Reunion Festival, June 17, and conclude six weeks later on Mon., Aug. 1. While every year is special, I am particularly excited that the 2016 class of PLP students will get to participate not only in Festival but also

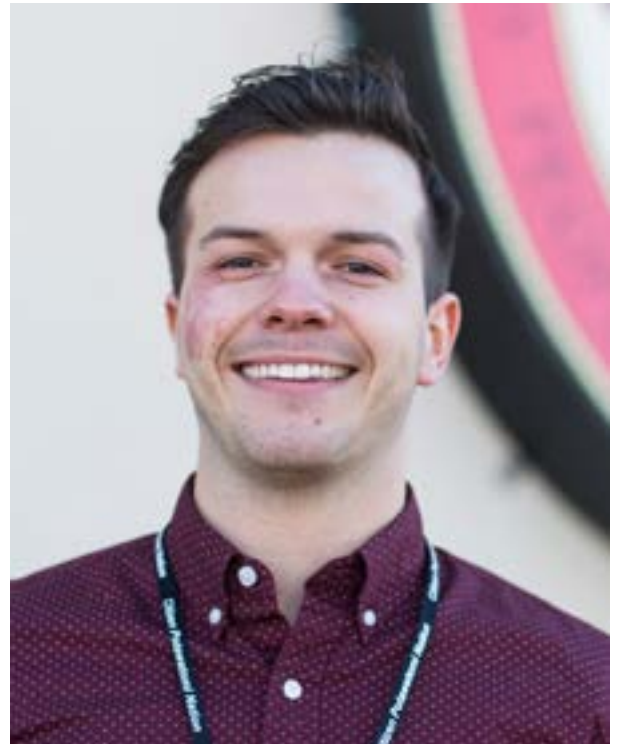
the Potawatomi Gathering of Nations, which will be hosted in Shawnee this summer.

While this short article does not allow me enough space to list all of the reasons that I support the PLP, I never talk about the program without focusing on what I find to be its most inspiring outcome: the students. It's tempting to rely on quantitative data to measure the PLP's impact. While statistics such as the number of students who have returned for internships or employment speak for themselves, that narrow focus, in my opinion, overlooks the program's true mission.

The purpose is to promote the development of Potawatomi leaders, which is an effect that lends itself more to qualitative analysis. It's the stories of students like Austen Roselius, who freely admits that prior to the PLP, he did not feel truly connected to his Potawatomi identity. Since completing the program in 2011, however, Austen served for three years as the PLP counselor, assembled traditional dance regalia, picked up additional coursework in Native American studies and selected his joint M.D./J.D. program at Universi-

ty of Minnesota based on the opportunity to work specifically with Native American populations.


It's the testimony of students like Miranda Hazelton, 2013 PLP, who states that it helped her find her place at the University of Texas – San Antonio, where she was instrumental in reviving the Native American Student Club and served as one of its dedicated leaders. It's the impact on families such as sisters Lydia and Paulina Davison, 2014 and 2015 PLP respectively, who each returned to their universities in Washington and Arizona to share what they learned about their culture with their fellow students. There are too many stories like this to name, and really, it's best when it comes from the students themselves anyway. I highly encourage you to read the final student reflections that have been posted on the PLP website.



Austen Roselius

To learn more, please visit plp.potawatomi.org, where you can find more details, previous student work, and the online application. Whatever you do, don't miss the April 15 deadline!

College-age Potawatomi, this is the program for you!



What is the PLP?

The six-week Potawatomi Leadership Program brings a group of young tribal members from around the world to Shawnee, Oklahoma to learn about the government, culture, and economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

For more information, please contact CPN Education Director Tesia Zientek
at tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org

To read student perspectives and apply, visit plp.potawatomi.org

ARE YOU GRADUATING IN MAY 2016?

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FULL NAME, HOME TOWN, POTAWATOMI FAMILY NAME, HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE, DEGREE TYPE AND MAJOR

Wesselhöft wears two hats as tribal and state legislator in Oklahoma

Compared to the Cherokee and Choctaw nations, which boast enrollment numbers in excess of 200,000, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation can seem like a small tribe. Yet amongst its 30,000 members are three politicians representing communities in Oklahoma at the state capitol. Senator Jason Smalley (R-Stroud), Representative Mark McBride (R-Moore) and Representative Paul Wesselhöft (R-Moore) are members of the Oklahoma State Legislature as well as that body’s Native American Caucus. For almost a decade now, when the state capitol is emptying out after a day of business, Wesselhöft is just putting on his second hat as the elected member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Tribal Legislator for District 9.

Wesselhöft is a native of south Oklahoma City, having graduated from U.S. Grant High School before entering a 18 year career in the U.S. Army. In his nearly two decades as an Airborne Ranger Chaplain, Wesselhöft ministered to soldiers from the Vietnam to Gulf War eras. He retired in 1995 as a major.

Following his military retirement, he served seven years at the Oklahoma State Department of Health where he was the state coordinator for the Oklahoma Abstinence Education Project. During this time he was also appointed to Governor Frank Keating’s Council for Prevention of Adolescent Pregnancy and STDs.

In 2005, Wesselhöft won the District 54 legislative seat having run as a conservative champion of small enterprises. During his time at the statehouse, he has occasionally been in the news for causes that confounded his political allies and critics alike.

Responding to a near fatal 2007 pit bull attack on a child in his constituency of Moore, Oklahoma, Wesselhöft championed legislation that would give cities the ability to ban certain breeds of dogs. In 2013, the

Moore Republican partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma on legislation that would require law enforcement to obtain a warrant before they used drones in targeted surveillance in investigations. His proudest moment came in authoring a bill early in his legislative career that protected military funerals from protesters of from the Westboro Baptist Church by enacting a 150-foot buffer zone from funeral homes.

Most recently, Wesselhöft had been a vocal critic of the University of Oklahoma’s Fred Jones Museum of Art for its failure to return a piece of stolen art to the family of the original owner. The painting was seized by the Nazi regime after the fall of France in 1940 and ended up in the museum’s possession. After hearing about the controversy, Wesselhöft authored House Resolution 1026 during the 2015 legislative session – which passed the Oklahoma House with unanimous consent – calling on the museum to return the painting. While he believed his stance was about righting a wrong made more than seven decades prior, Wesselhöft’s goal was to raise awareness for the principle of returning looted historical pieces to the rightful owners.

“For many Native American artists and tribes forced from their ancestral lands in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, pieces of art and artifacts of historical significance rightfully belonging to Native American descendants can end up in museums and galleries without any recompense,” he wrote in a July 2015



Paul Wesselhöft

legislative column in the *Hownikan*.

In February 2016, the museum and claimant reached an agreement on its return to France, an outcome that might not have been as likely had Wesselhöft not championed its cause.

As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, he is also a founding member of the Oklahoma Legislature’s Native American Caucus, an increasingly important bloc at the statehouse. Much of his work in this regard has been to help bridge some of the impasses at the state level when it comes to views on Oklahoma tribes.

“The most serious misunderstanding of tribes and tribal government by my fellow state legislators is their misconception of tribal sovereignty. They do not realize that tribes want to be self-sufficient and autonomous. Somehow they see this as an attack or an encroachment on state sov-

eignty. I am constantly educating legislators that both entities can exercise sovereignty without destroy the sovereignty of the other.”

Wesselhöft is a descendent of nineteenth century Potawatomi leader Abraham Burnett. Continuing his family’s legacy of tribal leadership, he has served in the CPN Legislature since 2007, representing the at-large Oklahoma District 9. He is also a past delegate for the tribe at the National Congress of American Indians.

“I am so proud to be a representative representing Oklahoma in the only national tribal legislature,” he said. “The resolutions there that make me the proudest are when we increase the dollar amount and number of scholarships for our students. There is no more important thing that we can achieve but to raise the level of education of our youth and give them greater opportunities for success.”

As he nears the end of his state legislative service due to term limits, Wesselhöft plans on applying for a graduate writing program at Columbia University in New York City. The published author intends to focus his energies on the tribal legislature and his newfound free time for writing, but that won’t stop him from focusing on good governance at CPN.

Wesselhöft and District 12 Legislator Paul Schmidtkofer will be sworn in June 25, 2016 for their same seats after no opposition candidates filed.

“I may take a year off to write some new short stories and finish work on a novel,” he noted. “Perhaps I will return to school and pursue a master of fine arts in fiction. One thing is for certain; I will endeavor to make a significant contribution to my tribe and heritage in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation’s Legislature. I am so thankful for the trust of my tribe in electing me to another term. I take that responsibility very seriously.”



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Community Development Corporation's Pollard donates to tax preparation services

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Community Development Corporation is not the kind of financial institution that worries financial regulators like the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau. More often than not, it is a champion of the little guy.

Its staff works with tribal members and employees to provide financial products and counseling services. It offers these same services to Native American owned-businesses throughout the United States. Consumer Lending Manager Tina Pollard is one such employee. In an effort to continue her service to the local community's financial needs, she began volunteering as a tax preparer with the Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency's Shawnee, Oklahoma location during work hours with the support of CPCDC Director Shane Jett.

The *Hownikan* spoke with Pollard about how she got into this role and why it is important to her as a financial professional.

Where are you doing tax preparation at and how did that start?

"In prior years the Oklahoma Indian Legal Service partnered with the CPCDC and CPN Employment and Training to provide tax services to Native Americans. They rather abruptly discontinued the service, leaving the Central Oklahoma Community Action Agency's tax preparation site the only one in the Shawnee community.

"The next year COCAA's Thixe Toty explained their site was too small to help the volume of people – who were mostly Native American – in need of this service. She also said it is hard to recruit preparers. Since tax season is a slow time for the CPCDC's nonprofit loan funds, I volunteered. I have been doing taxes one day a week during tax seasons in 2013, 2014 and 2016. Their site was not open last year and the community suffered as a result."

Is this a service of the CPCDC?

"The CPCDC pays my salary while I am volunteering, so they are basically making an in-kind donation. The tribe has already donated 48 hours of my time this year and that number will more than double by the end of tax season, an aggregate of approximately 288 hours."

Why do you work at this specific program instead of a place like H&R Block or Liberty Tax Preparation?

"CPN is a catalyst for change in the predatory lending industry. Through the CPCDC, they fought this kind of lending by influencing policy, creating alternative programs and using their sovereignty to protect their employees from unfair collection practices used by predatory lenders.

"Places such as H&R Block, Jackson Hewitt and Liberty offer Refund Anticipation Loans, which make predatory loans.

"They ask if you want your return today and if the person does, they will give them the funds minus their preparation fees and the fees and interest of this 'loan'. They can also establish a line of credit to basically borrow against the person's return for next year.

"These loans are very predatory and dangerous to financial security and I work to combat that, not support it."

Why do this kind of work? Isn't tax preparation stressful?

"I love helping people. My volunteerism is somewhat selfish though; it fills my need to make a difference. There is no bigger high than watching someone achieve their goals."

Where can people learn more about this service?

"Our VITA site is open Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during tax season. An appointment is strongly encouraged. There is a lady from the IRS, Dena Baker, that volunteers every Saturday and our gen-



Tina Pollard

erous lead preparer this year is Bill Vanbeber.

"We have a host of other volunteers, mostly elders, who are all volunteering on their own. CPN is the only business who pays an employee to volunteer for our VITA site. We can only be open if we are staffed, so if anyone would like to donate their time, feel free to call COCAA at (405) 275-7910."

Language with Justin: April 2016

Neshnabe:

The people and original man

I often have had people ask me what the word 'Nishnabe' is and why is it on our tribal seal. A lot of tribes have a name for themselves and a name they are known by. We are known as the Potawatomi, but know ourselves as *Neshnabe* people.

Neshnabe is singular and *Neshnabek* is plural. There are other people who refer to themselves as *Anishinabe*. Often they are Ojibwe (Ojibwa) or Odawa (Ottawa) people. It's believed at one time, perhaps 1,000 years ago or more, we were one people. In fact, if you look at our languages they are very similar. The Ojibwe say *anemosh* for the word for dog, where we say *nemosh*.

Sometimes the word is the same and other times there are slight differences. The Potawatomi in Canada tend to speak more of a three fires, or mixed language of Potawatomi Ojibwe and Odawa.

Back to the word *Neshnabe*; if you go back to its root: *Anishinabe*. 'Nabe' indicates man or mankind. 'nis' indicates downward and 'ani' asks the questions why. Basically it asks 'What is man's purpose?'



Bskazhet - Blossom

Sometimes today we translate this word loosely as Indian or Native person. This is our name for ourselves. Just like the Navajo call themselves the Dine. The Winnebago call themselves the Ho Chunk. The Potawatomi call themselves *Neshnabek*.

Potawatomi: Bodéwadmī, Bodéwadmik (plural)

So where does the word Potawatomi come from and what does it mean? There are countless stories and translations of this word throughout history. At one of our Potawatomi lan-

guage conferences several years ago, a group of elders talked about this word. They believed that it may have originally been *Bodwewadmī*. You will see this word translated as "People of the Fire," "People of the Place of the Fire," "People of Good Intentions," "Those who went out and made the Fire" or the "Firekeepers."

So which of these many translations is the correct one?

All of them to some degree. It's not an exact science when it comes to translating a word from one language to another. Sometimes people expect

a word-for-word translation that has only one meaning, but that's not always the case.

This group of elders explained 'Bodwe' is the verb to build a fire. 'Wad' or 'wat' means they. 'Mi' or 'ni' indicates a people. So *Bodwewadmī* roughly means they are the people who build the fire or fires.

If you look at history, it would hold true that when there were gatherings of Ojibwe, Odawa and Potawatomi people, the latter would be asked to build and maintain the fire. Even today if there are events within these tribes they will often ask a Potawatomi to watch the fire.

So when you introduce yourself you can say

- Justin *ndezhnekas*...
My name is Justin. (insert your name here...)
- *Neshnabe ndaw*.
I am *Neshnabe* (Indian)
- *Bodéwadmī ndaw*
I am Potawatomi.

Don't forget to check out the online Potawatomi course at <http://language.potawatomi.org> if you wish to learn more.

Lehman returns to dance competitions at Gathering of Nations Powwow in New Mexico

People often set goals to eat healthier, exercise more or lose weight through time at the gym or with a fitness trainer. One Citizen Potawatomi had a different goal in mind when he began his own training regimen a few months ago. The first test of its efficacy will be on display in front of thousands of spectators inside “The Pit” at the University of New Mexico at the end of April.

The Gathering of Nations Powwow in Albuquerque, New Mexico is one of the premier events on the powwow circuit, with more than 3,000 singers and dancers from more than 500 North American tribes present. Its late April date kicks off the summer powwow season. Tribal member and current CPN Powwow Arena Director Coby Lehman will be amongst those competing at the 2016 event.

Lehman, who is a tribal cultural activities coordinator for the FireLodge Youth Program, a former world renowned dancer and a top finisher in competitions around North America. He was also a regular winner of the tribal powwow held during the CPN Family Reunion Festival before stepping aside to take over arena director duties. While he hasn’t danced much in recent years, Lehman explained that he is not coming out of retirement, but rather returning after a stint focusing more on his family.

“My daughter has been in softball, and that takes up almost every weekend in the summer time,” he explained. “That takes away from

powwows for me, because she’s a priority. I also wanted to get back into shape after taking some time off and it’s definitely exercise.”

His years on the powwow circuit dancing in exhibitions around the world during his 20s give Lehman plenty of perspective on what it will take to step back into such a competitive environment.

“Gathering of Nations is where everybody goes, where the top dancers and singers are from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. It’s just that competitive drive in me, it’s still there. I’m 38 now, and right now in the best shape that I’ve been since I was in my 20s, so I wanted this to be my last go around to see if I still got it,” he said.

Lehman will be entering what he jokingly calls “the old man’s” competition for ages 35-50. He will be dancing Northern Traditional and will be displaying new regalia. Where others might want to take smaller steps back into such a highly competitive environment, the Asher, Oklahoma-native explained that he knows full well what he is getting into at the Gathering of Nations in New Mexico.

“I want to go down there and compete with the best, one more time.”

To learn more about the Gathering of Nations in New Mexico, visit <http://www.gatheringofnations.com/>.



Coby Lehman - Photo by Sharon Hoogstraten.

FireLodge Tribal Youth update: April 2016

By Benjamin McAlister,
FireLodge Tribal Youth
Assistant Coordinator

With March in the books the CPN Tribal Youth Program steamrolls ahead with another full slate of exciting curricula and events for April. The youth at the P.L.A.C.E. are in the home stretch of this academic year and it shows in our GET Smart Program. Our homework help sessions continue to improve the way the youth study and retain the information they are learning in the classroom. As all of the youth at the P.L.A.C.E. know, our staff is completely devoted to them excelling scholastically. We look forward to seeing the results of all their hard work throughout this past school year. College and career readiness classes continue to move forward with campus visits in the making for the University of Oklahoma, St. Gregory’s, OBU, and University of Tulsa to name a few. ‘College Prep and Career Readiness’ is offered to all youth enrolled at the P.L.A.C.E. that are freshmen and older.

The “Boyz 2 Men” and “Girlz 2 Women” Success and Life Skills



Jayden Brown, Beto Lugo and River Postoak-Gipp participate in the AISES training at the P.L.A.C.E.

programs continue to be a big hit amongst our youth here at the P.L.A.C.E.. We have been graced with so many wonderful guest speakers and life skills presentation over the past month; and April will not be any different. Some topics we will tackle this month include organization skills, anger management, friend etiquette, manners and self-respect. Some of the simplest knowledge

such as how to change a flat tire is often taken for granted or just ignored. (I unfortunately know adults that do not know how to change a tire.)

We want the youth at the P.L.A.C.E. to be equipped with all the tools and resources possible to ensure that they reach their full potential. Also our staff will present their life story anchored with a moral lesson to help

our youth better understand that unexpected things occur to each and every one of us. The staff conveys to them that you most definitely will stumble in life, but can you learn from your mistakes and failures to persevere through the tougher times.

With weather permitting, the P.L.A.C.E. staff and youth will volunteer to assist with the CPN Community Garden. You can rest assured that the youth are more than eager to get out of the confines of our beautiful facility and get back into the sunshine and lend a hand. Earth Day rolls around this month on the April 22 and the TYP will be out and about assisting in cleaning up the putt-putt course and the surrounding areas.

Last, but not least, we will wrap up this month with “P.L.A.C.E.-a-Palooza,” a karaoke contest between the youth and staff on April 29. If you have any interest of seeing our staff embarrass themselves please come and join us!

To learn more email Ben McAlister at ben.mcalister@potawatomi.org

Trousdale serves on state advisory council

With a projected budget shortfall of more than \$1 billion dollars, services funded through state tax revenues have faced steep cutbacks. Education has born its share of the cuts, with some large school districts across Oklahoma considering a four day school week and emergency certifications being used to fill more than 1,000 vacant teaching positions. One small, yet significant voice that is often left out of such discussions is students.

Yet under State Superintendent of Public Education Joy Hofmeister, one small group of high achieving students is able to express their views on the issues facing the classroom. CPN member Trae Trousdale of Tecumseh High School is a member of the superintendent's student advisory council. He spoke with the *Hownikan* on his experience with the group and his views as a student on how the current fiscal situation is impacting classrooms.

How did you get involved with the superintendent's student advisory council program?

"God has blessed my life in many ways. I have been raised by my loving and compassionate grandparents Cherie and Bob Trousdale, and my hardworking single mother, B.J. Trousdale. I have also been supported and encouraged by my father, James Tobler. They have all instilled in me the value of hard work, confidence, and humility.

"During this past semester, I was approached by my guidance counselor and encouraged to apply for State Superintendent Hofmeister's Student Advisory Council. I didn't think too much about it, but submitted my application to Mr. Tom Wilsie, the Tecumseh Public Schools Superintendent. A few weeks later, I received an email, and was informed that I had been selected!"

Why did you decide to apply for and participate in the program?

"Although many would not consider what I do to be fun, it is how I have my fun. I enjoy volunteering, and starting community projects



Trae Trousdale and Oklahoma State Superintendent Joy Hofmeister.

with my friends. I believe that in order for us to secure the future of our tribe, and even our nation, that it is vital for citizens and students to get involved. I believe that I am just performing my civic duties.

You're participating in the midst of a very tough time in Oklahoma education as the schools face budget cuts and teacher shortages. What do you think about it?

"We discussed many issues facing Oklahoma teachers and students. The most disconcerting issues were budget cuts, the state's ability to employ and retain the best teachers and even the state mandated testing placed on students. Ideas were shared concerning increasing the private sector support of public education, where all districts could withstand the budget cuts without affecting students dramatically. We even shared different opinions on how to attract and retain teachers.

"Just within my group of nine there were ideas about eliminating testing all together, limiting testing to smaller tests that track progression but do not reflect on the teacher's qualification and teaching students

to focus only on the ACT instead of the state mandated test.

"Superintendent Hofmeister assured us that her office is exploring many options to address these issues, and I think that she truly does care about the people in the classroom. However, I believe Oklahoma needs public education reform. The state needs to re-evaluate the amount that is allocated to teachers, and renew Oklahoma's commitment to its teachers and students. I believe that to achieve a competitive level of public education that many underperforming schools and some administrators must consider the idea of consolidation.

"I also believe that the state should change the formula used to fund school districts to be based on the number of students enrolled, versus the current funding formula that is based on taxes and other money from the businesses within a school district's boundaries.

"In order to alleviate teachers' stress; parents, guardians, and community members need to start taking an active role in student's academics. Many parents have taken a

back seat in their child's education. They rely on the schools to provide not only teachers whom educate, but also rely on them to raise their children to become contributing members of society, on top of the heavy burdens of class size, constant evaluation and low-pay. Parents need to step up, become active in their students' education and activities, teach their children valuable life lessons, and put a halt to the ongoing deterioration of the family unit. To achieve some of these goals would be a tough pill to swallow for many, but with the state's continued budget shortfalls I believe that we need to become aggressive and attack these issues head on now, rather than scramble and have to make more drastic cuts in the future."

Even though you're only a junior, do you have plans for after high school?

"I am still exploring my options and have narrowed my search down to approximately six options. If money were no object, I have three dream colleges I would like to attend; Princeton University and major in public and international affairs, the University of Pennsylvania and major in business economics and public policy, or Yale University and major in ethics, politics, and economics.

"Logically speaking, I know these are extremely high goals, so I have created my second level of options: the reality colleges. Topping off the list of these three is the University of Oklahoma where I would major in public affairs and administration. Followed by Oklahoma Christian where I would major in public communication and leadership, or attend Freed-Hardeman University where I would major in law and politics.

"After completing my college education I hope to return to Oklahoma where I would like to serve as a tribal legislator, a state legislator, and be elected to the national legislature. After I serve my state and tribe, I hope to be elected and serve as the first Native American President of the United States."

Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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Report on two Native nation-focused issues before the U.S. Supreme Court

This article is submitted by CPN Tribal Legislator Eva Marie Carney and appears as it did in the Women's Bar Association of D.C. April newsletter.

As a Native American woman and lawyer who follows tribal sovereignty and constitutional law developments, as well as initiatives to deter intimate partner violence, two cases pending before the U.S. Supreme Court this term have my particular interest.

The first, *Dollar General Corporation v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians*, was argued before the Supreme Court in December. It involves the alleged sexual abuse of a Native youth by the non-Native manager of a Dollar General store that was situated on tribal trust land and operated under a lease agreement with, and business license issued by, the Choctaw. The youth was under the manager's supervision, placed at the Dollar General store through a youth internship program operated and funded by the Choctaw tribal government. Dollar General had expressly agreed to participate in the program. When the youth and his parents sued Dollar General and the manager in tribal court, the defendants brought their own suit in federal court, challenging the tribal court's jurisdiction over them.

The specific question the Supreme Court has agreed to consider is *"Whether Indian tribal courts have jurisdiction to adjudicate civil tort claims against nonmembers, including as a means of regulating the conduct of nonmembers who enter into consensual relationships with a tribe or its members?"*

In *Montana v. U.S.*, 450 U.S. 544 (1981), the Supreme Court held generally that "Indian tribes cannot exercise power inconsistent with their diminished status as sovereigns" but created an exception that permits a tribe to exercise civil jurisdiction over nonmembers engaged in consensual relationships with the tribe or its members on tribal land if there is a nexus between the nonmember's relationship with the tribe or tribal members and the claims pled. The Choctaw argue that this exception permits them to exercise jurisdiction over Dollar General and its manager. The Choctaw assert that the tort claims indisputably implicate the Tribe's sovereign interest in protecting its members on its land, and that, by agreeing to participate in the Choctaw tribal government's youth internship program, Dollar General consented to the exercise of tribal



The United States Supreme Court will hear two Indian Country cases in the 2016 session.

jurisdiction over a workplace sexual assault suit arising directly from that participation.

Dollar General has mounted a strong offensive, asserting that "tribal court jurisdiction over nonmembers is fundamentally incompatible with the United States' 'overriding sovereignty'" and arguing that tribal courts lack civil jurisdiction over nonmembers absent congressional authorization (e.g., in a statute or treaty) or the defendant's unambiguous consent (e.g., in a forum selection clause of a contract)."

To date, the Choctaw's arguments have won the day. Four successive tribunals—the Choctaw civil court, the Choctaw Supreme Court, the federal district court from which Dollar General sought relief, and the Court of Appeals for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit—have ruled that the suit may proceed in the Choctaw courts. The Supreme Court's grant of certiorari is contrary to the recommendation of the solicitor general, who argued that the 5th Circuit's decision was correctly decided and that there was no split among the circuits requiring the Supreme Court's attention. Because four justices must agree to take a case for review, there is speculation that four of the justices serving on the Court at the time the case was accepted disagreed with the 5th Circuit's disposition of the jurisdictional matter.

The second case, *United States v. Bryan*, will be argued on April 19, 2016. It involves the question whether domestic abuse convictions in tribal courts lawfully may be considered in connection with the felony repeat-offender provisions of the Violence Against Women Act. The

defendant successfully challenged as unconstitutional the prosecution's use of his two earlier misdemeanor domestic abuse convictions in Northern Cheyenne Tribal Court because he was not represented by counsel in those matters. The U.S. Department of Justice sought and won certiorari, supported by various amici, including Native women's rights advocacy groups and the National Congress of American Indians, the oldest and largest organization representing Indian tribal governments, and numerous federal prosecutors.

As background, the U.S. Constitution does not apply to tribal prosecutions. The Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968 (ICRA), 25 U.S.C. 1301 *et seq.*, mandates a range of procedural safeguards for tribal-court defendants, including due process of law, the right to a speedy and public trial, and protection from compelled self-incrimination, unreasonable searches and seizures, double jeopardy, excessive bail, excessive fines, and cruel and unusual punishment. ICRA also mandates that tribal courts provide counsel for indigent defendants who are sentenced to a term of imprisonment exceeding one year, but does not require appointed counsel when a sentence of less than one year is imposed. 25 U.S.C. 1302(c)(2). Instead, a defendant in a misdemeanor prosecution has the right to the assistance of counsel at his own expense. 25 U.S.C. 1302(a)(6). ICRA's counsel provision thus differs from the Sixth Amendment.

The specific question the Supreme Court has agreed to consider in *Bryan* is: "Section 117(a) of Title 18 of the United States Code makes it a federal crime for any person to 'commit[] a domestic assault within the special maritime and territorial

jurisdiction of the United States or Indian country' if the person 'has a final conviction on at least 2 separate prior occasions in Federal, State, or Indian tribal court proceedings for' enumerated domestic violence offenses. 18 U.S.C. 117(a) (Supp. II 2014). The question presented is whether reliance on valid, uncounseled tribal-court misdemeanor convictions to prove Section 117(a)'s predicate-offense element violates the Constitution."

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, agreeing with the defendant, voided use of the tribal-court misdemeanor convictions. In his petition for Supreme Court review and his merits brief, the solicitor general has asserted that using tribal prosecutions for enhanced sentences is consistent with ICRA and Supreme Court precedent, and is an important tool in combating rape and other acts of intimate partner violence perpetrated against Native American women. Counsel for the defendant has countered that uncounseled tribal-court misdemeanor convictions are invalid and unconstitutional when used in federal court to prove an element required in a federal prosecution.

Among the numerous amici filing briefs in support of reversal of the 9th Circuit's decision is the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc., a Native non-profit organization with the mission to ensure the safety of Native women by protecting and preserving the inherent sovereign authority of American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes to respond to domestic violence and sexual assault. Joining in NIWRC's brief are thirty-four additional organizations that share NIWRC's commitment to ending domestic violence, rape, sexual assault and other forms of violence in the United States. The NIWRC's brief offers detailed insights into the extraordinary magnitude of violence perpetrated against Native women today, characterizing such violence as "constitut[ing] one of the greatest threats to the integrity and continued existence of Tribal Nations and their people."

The upcoming oral arguments in the *Bryan* case should be compelling.

WBA member Eva Marie Carney is a securities regulation and compliance partner with Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP, an enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, a federally-recognized Native American tribe, and an elected representative to the CPN Legislature.

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CPN Veterans report: April 2016



By Daryl Talbot, Commander of the CPN Veterans Organization

Bozho,

To start, I am sad to inform you that of one of our very active members, Robert Barrett, has walked on. He was a member of our CPN Honor Guard and Color Guard and will be greatly missed by all.

I would like to address an issue that has been in the news a lot lately, traumatic brain injury. Many veterans are suffering from this affliction, but they are not alone.

Sports events are becoming aware of the need to be concerned with TBI. Many of us have experienced it ourselves or know someone who has. TBI is a blow to the head that disrupts the normal functions of the brain. It may knock you out briefly or for an extended period of time, or make you feel confused or see stars.

Not all blows to the head result in a TBI. The most common form in the military is mild. A concussion is another word for mild TBI. In the military the leading causes of TBI, both deployed and non-deployed are: blasts, bullets, fragments, falls,

motor vehicle crashes and rollovers, sports and assaults. In the deployed setting, blasts are the leading cause.

Common signs symptoms of are:

- Physical – headaches, sleep disturbance, dizziness, balance problems, nausea, visual disturbances, sensitivity to light, and ringing in the ears.
- Cognitive – concentration problems, temporary gaps in memory, attention problems, slowed thinking, and difficulty finding words.
- Emotional – irritability, anxiety, depression, and mood swings.

Most people recover from a concussion. Symptoms usually begin to improve within hours and can resolve completely within days or weeks. Even after repeated concussions full recovery can be expected, but each additional concussion will take longer to heal.

Some coping tips are to write things down – carry a small pad and pen,

store important items like keys or wallets in a designated place to keep from losing them. Keep a steady pace and take breaks as needed. Try to focus on one thing at a time and perform tasks in a quiet and non-distracting environment. If you're feeling irritable or angry you can try relaxation techniques or just walk away from the situation.

In the VA, TBI has become a major focus, second only to recognition of the need for increased resources to provide health care and vocational retraining for individuals with TBI. These TBI veterans are in need of our understanding and support. *Migwetch.*

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every month on the fourth Tues. at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.



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If you have a tag that is faded or damaged, please contact the staff at the tag agency. We will be happy to replace your tag and update your registration with a new tag or replace your faded CPN seal. If your personalized tag is faded, we will need to order your replacement immediately. The month due will remain the same as your previous tag. If you need to renew your tag, please have your current insurance available. Please remember that all tags not in use must be returned to the CPN tag agency. We strongly encourage that you come to the tag agency to have the tag replaced.

Wadase update: April 2016

There's a day in April that is highlighted in bright yellow on the aviary's calendar. It was marked not as reminder, but as a countdown to celebrate yet another milestone for Wadasé Zhabwé.

On April 16, 2016, 1,095 days will have passed to mark three years since Wadasé's release. She has surpassed all expectations as we continue to learn valuable information from the telemetry she still wears.

Experts in the field continue to

marvel at the incredible amount of data gathered and her continued progress. With flights reaching heights above 9,000 ft. or 1.7 miles and speeds over 65 mph, it is safe to say Wadasé has mastered the sky. She is able to carry our prayers to the Creator, Mamo-Gosnan, and for that we are grateful and honored to continue to share her story. Below is a recap and some of the highlights from the past three years' progress.

In June 2012, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Eagle Aviary received a juvenile bald eagle orig-

inally from the Florida Audubon Society.

Long before she was Wadasé Zhabwé, CPN staff knew her as Penojés. Discovered near her nest in Orange County, Florida, she arrived at the CPN Eagle Aviary when she was approximately five months old and was given the Potawatomi name Penojés, meaning "child."

She had suffered an injury to her left wing, including a fractured wing tip, extensive tissue damage and loss of her primary flight feathers. The CPN Aviary staff planned

to glove-train the young eagle to serve as an educational ambassador for students and tribal members.

However, she began to fly when those missing flight feathers grew back and it was clear her non-releasable status needed to be reevaluated. By fall 2012, it was determined that Penojés had regained flight ability well enough to consider release back to the wild. During the course of several months she learned to hunt and regained her strength and conditioning for flight. On April 16, 2013 she received her new Potawatomi name, Wadasé

Zhabwé, meaning "Brave Break-through." Wadasé was banded and released with a tracking device so that aviary staff could monitor her progress.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Raptor View Research Institute of Missoula and Comanche Nation Sia all joined together to rehabilitate Wadasé and prepared to release and track the young eagle. The CPN Aviary became the first ever Native American Aviary to release an eagle back into the wild banded and fitted with a GPS

telemetry backpack.

Over the past three years she has logged over 25,000 GPS points containing data such as location, speed, direction height and temperature. While she has remained in Oklahoma since her release, she continues to explore new parts of the state, visiting nearly a third of its 77 counties. The closest she came to leaving the state was to the north just 7.5 miles from the Kansas border near the Great Salt Plains Lake. Her furthest trip south ended just past Duncan, 24 miles from the Red River. Her westernmost point

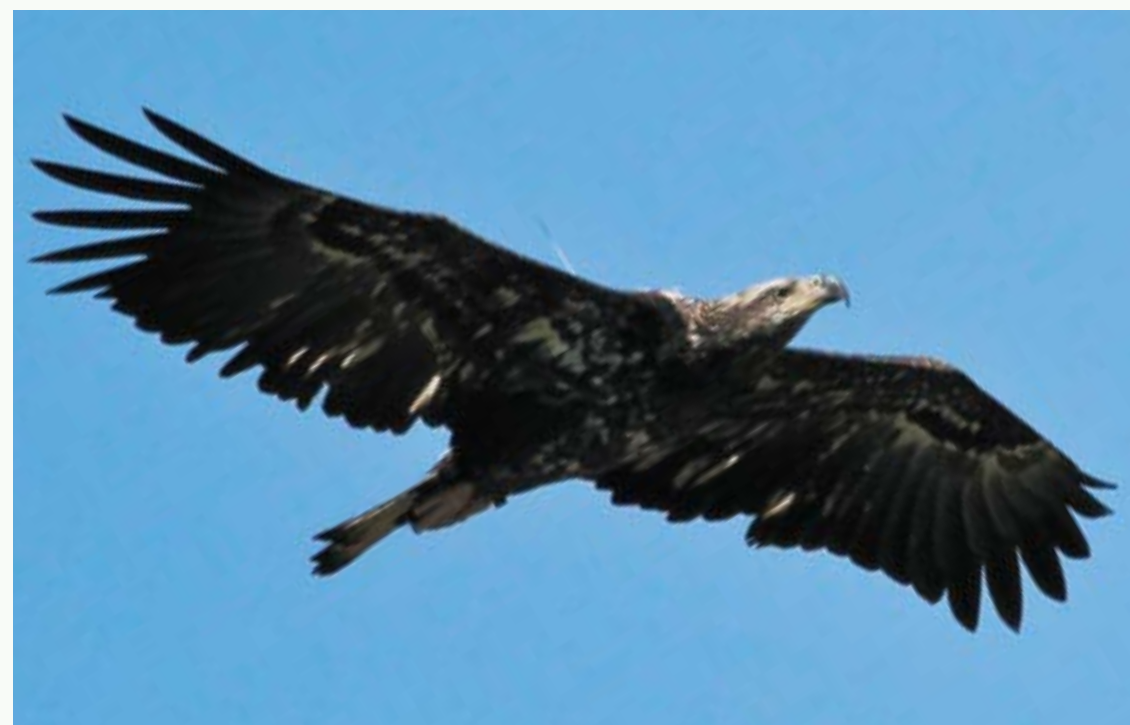
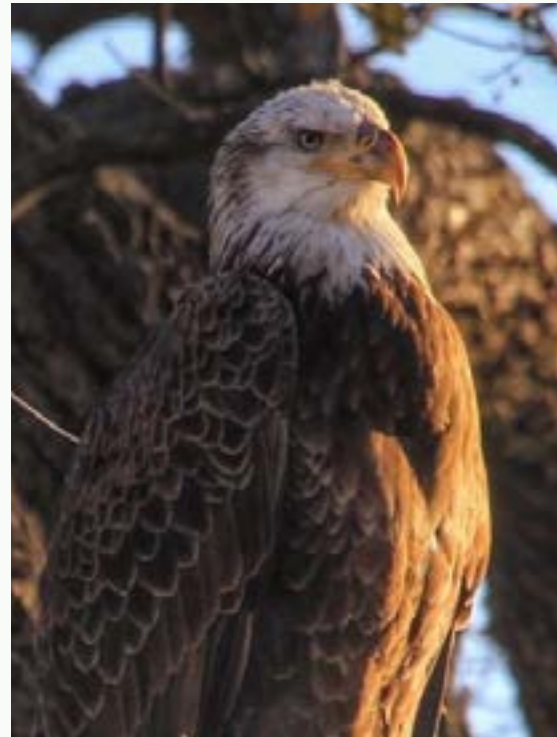
was past Ft. Cobb stopping just shy of Carnegie and to the east she has only traveled as far as Okmulgee.

During the first year of her release she was at the aviary 146 days and the second year it was less than 70. This past year she was here just 35 days. More than seven months went by in between one of those visits. She has endured extreme weather conditions and countless challenges in the wild on her own.

The CPN Aviary staff would like to extend a sincere thank you to all of those involved in making this re-

lease not just a possibility but a success.

Send your encounters with Wadasé or any other eagles in the state or wherever you may be to aviary@potawatomi.org. For more information or to read previous updates please visit www.potawatomi-heritage.org.



“In the afternoon on September 13, 2015 we heard the eagles calling and spotted what we at first thought was an adult bald eagle flying out over the aviary. We hurried into the office to get binoculars just in time to see that eagle land on Wadasé's crook in the pecan tree out front. We could hardly believe our eyes, even after checking to be sure the eagle was wearing telemetry and was banded. Wadasé Zhabwé was really home!”

“This has become a quite regular pattern. She comes in to visit for a few days and is off again. She has arrived and shown off for tours and meetings. Many times she puts on quite a display, flying all around the pasture to get a rise out of the eagles in the enclosures and then comes in to and on her perch for what would seem to be her photo op for the guests.”

What’s new at CPN

Those traveling from out of state to the Family Reunion Festival routinely see the ever changing landscape that is the FireLake complex. Through the years CPN has grown considerably, both as a tribal government and in terms of its enterprises.

In 2015, several new enterprises opened for business, including BDC Gun Room, FireLake Fry Bread Taco, FireLake Pizza and Flame Brazilian Steakhouse.

In the year since the 2015 Festival, the tribe has continued to grow and add FireLake Snack Bar and Grill, Soto Sushi Bar and a healthy food aisle in FireLake Discount Foods.

Several new buildings are under construction for already existing departments. Employment and Training and the Office of Environmental Health will be moving into their new locations just northeast of the Administration building later this year. FireLake Express Grocery in McCloud will open their doors for business in the coming month. FireLake Golf Course’s back nine fairway’s will be under construction until September 2016 but will be opening their brand new clubhouse before Festival occurs. The clubhouse will have plenty of entertainment to offer including a restaurant, bar and pro golf shop.



Soto Sushi Bar
777 Grand Casino Blvd, Shawnee, OK 74804

Soto Sushi Bar is located on the second floor of the Grand Casino Hotel and Resort. The restaurant is a family friendly establishment the offers more than just sushi. Head Chef Richard Soto developed the eatery’s extensive menu that features nigiri, Japanese noodle dishes and traditional Asian appetizers.



FireLake Snack Bar and Grill
40945 Hardesty Rd, Shawnee, OK 74801

Located inside FireLake Bowling Center is FireLake Snack Bar and Grill. The restaurant offers seating or is a quick lunch or dinner option for those who enjoy diner food. The Snack Bar and Grill offers specialty cheeseburgers and sandwiches along with many other traditional diner items like onion rings, chicken fingers and nachos.



FireLake Discount Foods
1570 S Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801


FireLake Discount Foods recently introduced a new aisle to their store stocked with mostly organic and non-GMO products. The healthy aisle has items that range from canned goods to cold products. Festival attendees who are diabetic or have diet restrictions can find grocery alternatives in the aisle including dairy-free, gluten-free and reduced sugar options.



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CPN-American Red Cross continue partnership in “Home Fire Campaign”

Working together is rarely a difficult prospect for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the American Red Cross. In recent years, the two have partnered on severe weather preparedness projects that resulted in the construction of storm shelters for tribal members, and they have worked hand-in-hand in disaster recovery efforts like the 2013 spring storm cleanup in Pottawatomie County.

In early 2016, the two service providers again teamed up for the “Home Fire Campaign” for tribal housing residents living in the CPN jurisdiction. CPN and the Red Cross of Central Oklahoma held training sessions in early January to instruct personnel on how to inspect and install smoke detectors at tribal member residences. The Red Cross initially approached the Nation about the program, a first of its kind effort between the ARC and a tribal government.

Residential fires remain a common plague despite being largely preventable. According to the latest statistics from the National Fire Protection Association, more than 369,000 home fires killed 2,755 Americans in 2013. An additional 12,000 were injured in those same blazes, which caused an estimated \$6.8 billion in damage.

“Eventually we plan on supplying



Phyllis Wahahrochah-Tasi Regional Tribal Outreach Specialist for American Red Cross of Oklahoma, CPN Housekeeping Admin Assistant Patti Burton and CPN Public Safety Director Tim Zientek.

750 homes with new smoke detectors, but we’ve already installed around 688,” said CPN Emergency Management Director Tim Zientek. “Our trained personnel will also work with residents to come up with an evacuation plan in case of an emergency as well as educate homeowners on home safety.”

Though fires, deaths and injuries caused by them continue to fall statistically, the prevalence of such a preventable problem is vexing. Nearly half are caused by cooking acci-

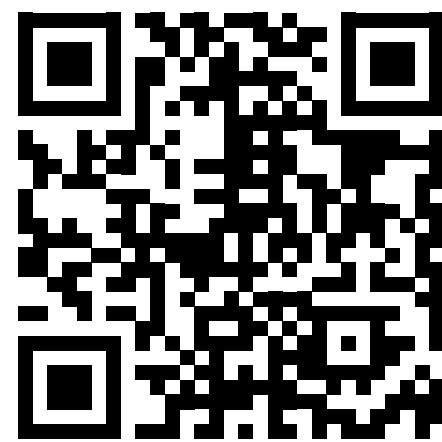
dents, while heat-related fires are the second most prevalent.

“It is vital to have a plan and to address potential causes before they become a problem,” explained Zientek. “Our trained teams know what to look for when entering a residence in terms of what is hazardous and could cause a structure to catch fire. Even if the worst strikes, the evacuation plan is key to surviving a fire unscathed.”

This prevention is also vital for emergency responders like Zientek, who

also leads the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Volunteer Fire Department. Once a structure is on fire, emergency responders are on the front line of rescue and fire control operations. In 2014 alone, 56 volunteer firefighters died while acting in the line of duty according to the U.S. Fire Administration.

For Zientek and the partners at the American Red Cross, each evacuation plan and smoke detector lessens the chance of having to respond with a fire truck. Tribal housing properties and foster homes in the Shawnee, Oklahoma and Rossville, Kansas areas are being served by the installation teams, and the effort will continue until the supply of smoke detectors is exhausted.



For more information scan this QR code.

Potawatomi Alee Rogers competes in Miss Oklahoma pageant

There are times in life when an opportunity comes up that would otherwise pass one by. For many today, those opportunities can come from a variety of sources, including a social media post. Just one click for CPN member Alee Rogers was all it took to enjoy what she describes as one of her best experiences to date.

Rogers competed in the 2016 Miss Oklahoma pageant, representing her hometown of Hartshorne, Oklahoma, after reading about the contest online.

“I got involved through Facebook,” said Rogers. “I saw the link and did some research and it sounded like a great opportunity, so I applied and was accepted. And it was the best time of my life.”

First held in 1952, the Miss Oklahoma Scholarship Pageant is not just a pageant competition. It provides more than \$2 million in scholarship funds through its state and local contests through the Miss Oklahoma Scholarship Foundation.

Pageants aren’t an uncommon phenomenon in the state of Oklahoma, which along with California, New York and Ohio boasts a



Alee Rogers and her brother Jason Farmer

record six winners of the Miss America Pageant. Even so, while many in the Sooner State know of the contests, few understand the sacrifices that go in to the event.

“Something about the pageant that

people may not know is how much work truly goes into it,” said Rogers. “There is so much planning that goes into it. The people who put this pageant together truly are amazing and don’t get enough praise for their hard

work. I feel so honored to have been a part of something so extraordinary.”

As for her own sacrifices, the Lafromboise-family descendent sums up her experience with an observation common to anyone who has attempted to wear women’s shoes for any length of time.

“We had long days filled with rehearsals and heels,” said Rogers. “We wore heels *all* day long on both days, and the weekend as a whole was pretty stressful and very tiring, but I wouldn’t change a thing.”

Despite not winning, the Hartshorne High School senior says that the positive experience she had with this year’s pageant will serve as a stepping stone to next year’s competition. She intends to enter the 2017 Miss Oklahoma pageant, heels and all.

“I can’t wait to see how many of the wonderful girls I made friends with compete again with me. When you become so close with the girls and truly get to know them, it isn’t much of a competition anymore. You want to succeed but, you are just as happy if they succeed too.”

Indian Country police gearing up to stifle opioid overdoses

Come 2016, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Indian Health Services are teaming up in an effort to better address drug abuse in Indian Country.

Along with the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, the two agencies announced a memorandum of understanding on Dec. 16, 2015 at the Indian Health Resources Center that will allow for the training of BIA officers on how to identify opioid and heroin overdoses and administer an atomized dosage of naloxone.

Also known as narcan, naloxone is a synthetic drug that blocks the nervous system's opiate receptors. It can reverse an overdose if administered in time, either by an injection into muscle tissue or by inhaling it.

The pilot program, which will include Oklahoma-based BIA officers, involves an eight-hour training course. An estimated 230-240 officers are expected to participate in the initial rollout, with the potential for

tribal law enforcement officers to be added later on.

"It's a great first step for Indian Country," Associate Director of field operations for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services Charles Addington said. "We're trying to get new resources out there because our officers are sometimes faced with being in rural areas with minimal resources, so this is a great first step in moving forward so we can save some lives."

With its curriculum still being developed, officials with the BIA and IHS did not have a timeline for when the training would start, nor did they have a figure on all of the costs associated with the IHS-funded program.

As per the MOU, 91 pharmacies at IHS operated facilities nationwide, including nine sites across Oklahoma, will be authorized to distribute the drug to BIA officers.

Pharmacies operated under a trib-

al self-governance agreement, such as those offered through the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's two clinics in Shawnee, Oklahoma, are not required to participate in the program. However, Dr. Susan Karol, the chief medical officer for Indian Health Services, said tribally-operated pharmacies would be welcome to join in.

"We would love to have those tribal pharmacies participate," she said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, the rate of opioid abuse-related deaths among American Indians and Alaska Natives nationwide has increased almost four-fold since 2009. Data collected by IHS indicates that the rate of drug-related deaths among American Indians and Alaska Natives is almost double that of the general population, with up to 130 overdose fatalities per day in 2014 alone.

Opioid painkillers, such as oxycodone, hydrocodone and hydromorphone, are responsible for three-

fourths of all prescription drug overdose deaths.

"We know we need a comprehensive response to this," said Michael Botticelli, the White House's Director of National Drug Control Policy. "In terms of reducing the overprescribing of prescription drugs, ensuring that treatment is available is critically important. But none of this is sufficient if people die and if we don't save their lives to be able to get them into care and treatment."

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Potawatomi chronicler George Winter

By Blake Norton,
CPN Cultural Heritage Center

While tribal histories from across North America are largely contained in governmental documents like tribal rolls or artifacts in museums, there are often missing pieces during times of great unrest and upheaval. For many tribes, the removal periods in their respective histories were times of trial and tribulation. Before the camera became a widely used tool, the visual history of the lives and experiences of Indigenous people were often lost.

The nineteenth century Potawatomi of the Woods, whose descendants are today known as the Citizen Potawatomi, are an exception to this trend thanks in large part to one man: George Winter.

Winter was born June 10, 1809 in Portsea, England, in what is today known as Portsmouth. From a young age he followed his artistic impulses by taking apprenticeships under local painters and draughtsman. In search of formal training, he moved to London at the age of 17 where he was a regular visitor to the National and Dulwich galleries. Winter's ultimate goal was to attend enough shows at the Royal Academy of Art that he would gain admittance to the prestigious institution. Despite earning praise and encouragement from many of London's professional artists, Winter never received any formal training as a painter nor was he accepted to the academy.



Iowah by George Winter, 1837.

Like many Europeans before and after him, Winter sought better fortunes in the United States. In 1830 he arrived in New York, joining family already there. Upon arrival he enrolled at the National Academy of Design, where for three years, he focused on developing a variety of artistic skills. In 1835, he moved further west, this time with his family to Ohio, where he opened a studio in Cincinnati and composed numerous portraits and illustrations.

Much like his contemporaries, Winter was driven by adventure and was eager to capture the vanishing culture of the American Indian. Learning of the impending Potawatomi removal from Indiana, he closed his Cincinnati studio and traveled to Logansport, Indiana.

Coincidentally, Potawatomi emigration and land payment negotiations were held in the long room of Winter's Washington Hall hotel. Capital-

izing on his luck, the English-born artist set up a temporary studio near the hotel and adjacent the Ewing and Walker Trading Post, a popular establishment among the neighboring tribes. It was here that the Potawatomi orator and headman Iowah sat for the artist's first commissioned portrait.

Building a reputation among the local government officials, Winter was invited by Indian Agents Lewis H. Sands and George H. Proffit to the Potawatomi village of Keewawnay, to observe the community and sketch removal negotiations. Spending nearly two weeks at Keewawnay and another three at Crooked Creek, he was able to document the Potawatomi through sketches, paintings and writings. Capturing a piece of American history, George sketched the initial stages of the Potawatomi Trail of Death.

Winter's documentation of the Potawatomi removal remain a groundbreaking moment in American Indian history. His sketches were to become the only first-hand visual records of an American Indian removal.

The self-taught artist's renditions and inscriptions of Indiana's Native culture and landscape earned him international acclaim. Dying at the age of 66 in 1876, George Winter established not only a successful career, but his place among few individuals who would accurately document the history of Native America.

Tribe hosts training for butterfly preservation

Under the encouragement of the CPN Environmental Protection Department and support from fellow departments, Citizen Potawatomi Nation continues to play an integral role in Indian Country's response to the devastating losses to Monarch butterfly populations in Oklahoma.

"CPN makes an effort to be good stewards of the environment," explained Arthur Muller, director of the tribal environmental protection department. "In Oklahoma, so much of our economy is reliant on agriculture, which itself is reliant on pollinators like the Monarch butterfly, it is important to protect them."

Due in large part to the use of pesticides that kill off native milkweed, which are the Monarch's main source of food, butterfly populations have been decimated in recent decades. In Feb. 2016, CPN hosted a community garden workshop. The USDA Natural Conservation Service's Carol Crouch, Ph.D. spoke on the reasons for and solutions addressing the loss of the Monarch's habitat.

In March 2016, the momentum continued with experts from across the central and southwest U.S. travelling to CPN for a two day Monarch butterfly conservation and coordination training session.

"The tribes of Oklahoma can make a huge difference by shifting some

of their land management practices to attract the butterflies by planting patches of lost milkweed from the lands. The huge representation of the tribes at this workshop demonstrated that the tribes of Oklahoma want to make a difference," said Crouch.

Katie Latta from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was one of the conference's attendee. Latta is the Monarch butterfly outreach specialist for Texas and Oklahoma who liaises with tribes in both states to promote conservation opportunities.

"I hope we can come up with some good projects for creating or enhancing Monarch habitats throughout Oklahoma on tribal lands," said Latta.

She explained that the driving cause of the Monarch butterfly's loss in population is habitat loss in locations where they breed, like the southern U.S., as well as their wintering habitats in northern Mexico.

"We're trying to address that by delivering conservation on the ground that can create or enhance those habitats," said Latta. "The goal of the workshop was to engage tribes in Monarch conservation projects. Essentially, these are land management projects that will encourage growth and abundance of the plants Monarchs depend upon throughout the landscape."

After consultations with experts

like Latta and Crouch, the tribe's efforts at revitalizing the Monarch's habitat are already underway. The annual community garden, located at the CPN Eagle Aviary, is working towards phasing out all pesticides that harm the butterflies. Garden volunteers will also plant pollinator-friendly crops to provide a safe haven for the butterflies.

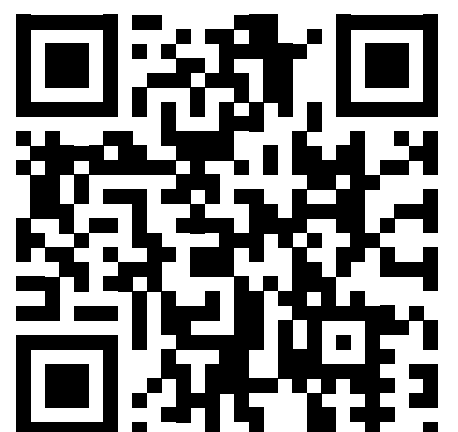
"The average person can make a difference in their own back garden. I feel the workshop elevated the awareness that the Monarch incredible migration pathway is at risk and that everyone can help make a difference," concluded the USDA's Crouch.

With continued awareness across Oklahoma, the hope is that tribal nations can continue to provide a leading example for the rest of the state for best approaching such an important, but delicate creature.

To learn more about statewide efforts at protecting the Monarch butterfly, scan this QR code, visit www.nativebutterflies.org or visit the CPN Community Garden Facebook page at [cpn.news/garden](https://www.facebook.com/cpn.news/garden).



Katie Latta of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Native Veterans in Oklahoma process trauma through culturally sensitive care

By Allison Herrera, KOSU Invisible Nations

The below article was written and broadcast for KOSU Radio's Invisible Nations. It is reproduced here with its author's permission.

Soldiers returning from battle face special challenges. Thousands suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and their care can be more involved and long-term. The nation's VA hospitals, although under recent scrutiny, will care for more than a million of the nation's soldiers.

But, the nation's Native American veterans face a set of extra challenges after fighting on the front lines.

Matheson Hamilton was a state side medic serving at the Presidio during the Vietnam War where he saw a lot of soldiers tragically wounded and die. When he returned to Oklahoma in 1977, he started drinking to cope with the things he saw. To get sober, he tried a number of different programs, including Alcoholics Anonymous, but nothing worked.

"Dealt with it the best way I could. To get to sleep at night, I'd get drunk. I thought it was sleep, but I was just passed out. I'd wake up and the first thing I want to do is get drunk again so I don't have to think about things."

Then he found the Warriors group, a special substance abuse program at the Oklahoma City VA hospital aimed at Native veterans. It started in 1999 when the VA decided it wanted to better serve two population of its veterans: women and Native Americans. The program was the first of its kind in the country.

"Through friends of mine they said, 'go to the warriors group. It'll help you out a whole lot.' And I got back into the ceremonies after I joined the Warriors group. Started going to sweats and did the sundance. Just got my life back on the right road."

He's been sober for eight years now.



Matheson Hamilton, a member of the Oklahoma City VA Hospital Warriors Group, displays his color guard jacket. - Photo by Allison Herrera.

He says it was Susan Vaughn, one of Warriors group founders who helped him stick it out.

Vaughn started as a licensed social worker at the VA in 1997. When she was approached to start the Warriors group, she quickly learned that this program needed to be different. Rather than sitting in group talking and processing like Alcoholics Anonymous, these Native veterans wanted to be active and give back to the community. She says it's the key to the program's success.

"I think the cultural piece of that is that they wanted to be very involved with their families and the community. Pow Wows. We started the pow wow in 2000 because they wanted to give back. The guys went up on the floors and got veterans in wheelchairs and brought 'em down to the dance and it was wonderful."

The Veterans Honor Dance at the Oklahoma City VA Hospital is now in its 16th year. Participants from the Warriors group and the Elders council—an offshoot from the Warriors group—honor veterans both living and fallen. Gifts are given, songs are sung and a Grand Entry rivaling that of any major Pow Wow takes place in

the VA's auditorium.

At this year's Veterans Honor Dance, they honored Candy Klump, who is leaving the VA this month to care for another veteran: her dad, who fought in World War II. Throughout her time at the VA, she's gained new respect for Native Americans who serve our country.

Candy Klump begins her day like any other at the VA hospital in Oklahoma City—making the rounds, chatting with hospital friends and offering up words of support. We're walking towards the ER to see a patient Candy helped admit after he complained of serious pain. We arrive to find him lying on his side waiting to for the ER doctor to check him out.

Klump has been with the VA for 27 years, and her goal is simple: help Native American Veterans get the care he or she needs.

It turns out that may be more complicated than you think—that's because Native veterans face an extra set of challenges. They have more health issues before serving their country and, according to the VA's own 2015 study, they serve their country at higher rate than other veterans.

And then there's the cultural piece—family and community are a big part of people's lives in Indian country. So are ceremonies, which serve as an extra layer of protection when dealing with war time trauma.

"If you see a veteran sitting in a room and they see another veteran there and they get to talking, there's a camaraderie and there's a connection there will not be between any other two people in the room. Well, if you get Native American veterans in a room and they get to talking, that is even double. To me, Native American veterans are a sub-culture of a sub-culture."

Since 2013, Klump has worked exclusively with Native veterans after the VA signed an agreement with Indian Health Service to streamline the care they receive. It's a big deal if you live far away from the nearest VA facility. Clump's job is a lot of cutting through the red tape so vets can have easier access to care. The main issues are transportation, making sure that veterans know they're even eligible for care and communication.

In addition to her rounds at the hospital she gives trainings to non-native staff about how to talk to native vets, whose communication style might not be what they're used to.

"A Native person may not look you in the eye. It doesn't mean he's lying. A Native American person if you tell them no, is probably not going to come back and ask you again."

Native veterans still seek a lot of their care from the VA hospital, which doesn't plan on ending the unique services for this special class of veterans. And even though Candy Klump is leaving the VA, the program she helped start and the work she did will continue.

You can interact with Invisible Nations and provide your own experiences by texting the word "Press" to 405-759-8336.

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Care for eagle feathers with Native Cedar Boxes

Potawatomi around the world have a distinct advantage of ordering naturally molted eagle feathers from the CPN Eagle Aviary. Only Native Americans in the U.S. have the opportunity to utilize such a service, which along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Eagle Repository, sends naturally molted feathers to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes. Once the feather arrives, proper care must be taken to protect these objects that are treasured by Native Americans.

Citizen Potawatomi Samuel Navarre's small, home grown business, Native Cedar Boxes, aims to provide tribal members a useful and visually appealing safe place for the storage of these cherished feathers.

Navarre comes from a long line of wood workers. Both of his grandfathers were carpenters, and while his father didn't take it up as a trade, he possesses the skills to craft wood. A shared wood working connection to his great-grandfather Robert Navarre isn't solely relegated to bloodlines. To this day, Navarre still has one of his great-grandfather's large, luggage tool boxes. He enjoyed wood working as a hobby while pursuing other endeavors such as teaching Potawatomi and working for the state parks department. It wasn't until 2015 that the Whitebead, Oklahoma native decided to pursue this one-time hobby full time.

Navarre estimates that it takes around 48-man hours to fully complete one box. He sources his supplies from a wood dealer as opposed to buying it off the shelves at a hardware store. Much of it is eastern red cedar, which largely comes from southwestern Oklahoma.

"I like to split the wood, because usually, if you split it, there's a prettier grain pattern. I use eastern red cedar because it has that aroma that acts as a repellent to bugs."



Boxes are available at facebook.com/NativeCedarBoxes.

Mites, grasshoppers and other insects are often put off by the strong cedar aroma from the wood, which is vital to keeping an organic object such as a feather as clean and in-tact as possible.

"A lot of people get an eagle feather and want to display them, and that's fine," Navarre explained. "If you're going to do that though, you need to at least take care of it. At least once a week you need to clean it off and make sure nothing is getting attached to it or attacking it."

Navarre tells cautionary tales of tribal members who have been gifted eagle feathers and not taken the time to safeguard them. He points out that these anecdotes aren't meant to shame, but to show just how fragile these sacred items can be. Even to the detriment of his sales, Navarre suggests a novel and affordable method to safeguarding an eagle feather without the use of a cedar box.

"A lot of times, if you'll just take two pieces of cardboard and run a couple rubber bands around them with the eagle feather in between, you're protecting it better than just leaving it out where it can get damaged," he explained.

But the best long term solution for protecting an eagle feather remains cedar boxes. The eagle feather is considered a spiritual symbol by many tribal cultures in North America. For the Potawatomi specifically, the eagles from which they come are viewed as messengers that carry the prayers of people to the Creator. While Navarre acknowledges that each individual person may not share the same perspective in this regard, he likens caring for the feathers as much an act of respect for any other sacred item that is important to another culture.

"It's understandable that someone may not look at a feather as a sacred item, any more than someone else sees a rosary as important. But if you use a rosary in a disrespectful manner, it can understandably offend someone. When so many of our symbols are organic and attract insects and mites that can destroy them, not storing them properly can be disrespectful."

When outside the box, Navarre explains that something as simple as cleaning a feather once a week with cedar oil can help mitigate some of these attacks.

"Even if you want to have them just because you'd like one, it is best to take care of them because they do mean so much to other people."

Another reason to care for the feathers is in large part the length of time it takes to acquire one in the first place. The waiting list for eagle feathers to be issued by U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife's national repository can be months or years. Even the CPN Eagle Aviary, which is legally allowed to distribute feathers to tribal members, has so many requests that it can be some time before they are received.

It's this knowledge of practical and cultural aspects that led Navarre back to crafting wood full time for his business, Native Cedar Boxes. Navarre takes custom orders, but also crafts a wide range of other boxes and items for customers. He also incorporates works of fellow Native artists into his work when he can.

"I have worked with Potawatomi artist Penny Coates, who does beautiful one-of-a-kind paintings on some of the boxes. I have also taught Potawatomi, young and old, in Oklahoma to make similar boxes. It helps promote Potawatomi art and encourages more people to get started with their own craft."

While their creation is a source of income, he explained that his motivation isn't to shame people into buying one of his products, but rather, to provide them an option to protect an important symbol of their heritage.

If you would like to learn more about Sam Navarre or his crafts, visit his Facebook page at www.facebook.com/NativeCedarBoxes or email him at oldmanriver76@gmail.com.

PROTECT A POTAWATOMI CHILD'S DREAM BECOME A FOSTER PARENT



To preserve the culture of our Native children, tribal foster homes are desperately needed in Oklahoma and throughout the United States.

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If you are an Oklahoma Resident willing to open your heart and home to our children in out-of-home placements, please contact our office for an application packet.

For those living outside of Oklahoma, contact our office for further information on becoming a tribal home in your state of residence.

FireLodge Children and Family Services
405-878-4831 | 1-800-880-9880



Bozho, Nikan (Hello, my friend),

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is at a historical crossroads. This year we must decide whether we will remain on the property that was declared government surplus in the 1950s and given back to us by the federal government in the 1960s. Our decision must be a reasoned one based on our need for future investment if we stay where we are, in proximity to the greatest number of tribal citizens, and future business and regulatory environment. I will be introducing legislation to the tribal legislature to commence a thorough study to determine our course of action. The study must consider several factors: the first is our headquarters building.

The old building we now occupy as the headquarters of our tribal government is south of Shawnee, Oklahoma adjacent to the old Bureau of Indian Affairs Shawnee Agency grounds, which was in operation until 1947. Our building was built in 1985. It was originally an adolescent mental health treatment facility. We bought it out of a Philadelphia bankruptcy court in 1996. It is one story, flat roofed, with an EFIS exterior made of thin one-fourth inch fiberglass reinforced cement stucco on top of one inch of Styrofoam.

Tribal Chairman - John "Rocky" Barrett

EFIS stands for "Exterior Insulation Finishing Systems." The method of application has changed since this building was constructed because the old system allowed water to wick up behind the base of the wall and rust out the lightweight steel studs that make up the structure behind the one inch of Styrofoam. This has happened extensively throughout our building. The connection point between the roof and the walls is failing in several places and water has damaged the interior walls and created a mold potential behind the wallpaper. In short, the building has reached the end of its "useful life." It has 12 conventional heating and air conditioning units on the roof, most of which are original from 1985 and need replacing. We only paid 25 percent of new cost for it when it was purchased, so the investment has served us well. Our problem is deciding whether to replace it where we are now located, move the tribal government to another building in this area or relocate the government to a new location.

Consideration of a new location is based on several factors: the most important is proximity to the people we serve. More Citizen Potawatomi live in the McLoud/Harrah/Choctaw/Jones area than in Shawnee and Tecumseh. Our largest investment, the Grand Casino complex, is near McLoud, Oklahoma on Interstate 40. It includes the Grand Casino, the Grand Travel Plaza, the Grand Hotel, the CPN West Health Clinic and the primary medical administration building. We own the entire water and sewer infrastruc-

ture there. We already own more than 1,000 acres of developable federal trust land on the McLoud Road, four lane highway off of I-40; and we have a new grocery store opening soon and two other tribal facilities in the area.

Two major announcements by the Oklahoma state government happened this year: first, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation revealed plans to construct a new north-south turnpike from the Peebly Road exit on I-40 north to the Turner Turnpike at Luther, Oklahoma. The Turner Turnpike connects Oklahoma City and Tulsa. This will become a major route travelers will take to avoid the congestion on I-35 through Oklahoma City. Peebly Road is within our former reservation jurisdiction and is the next exit on I-40 west of McLoud Road. This turnpike will transform the demographics of the small towns of Choctaw, Harrah, Jones and McLoud. The market expansion for our primary retail business, groceries, is huge.

The second announcement by Oklahoma was a major expansion of the Boeing Aircraft facility at Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, Oklahoma to include 3,000 new jobs plus all of the support industry jobs. This development will all be on the east side of Midwest City towards Choctaw and Harrah. The combination of the turnpike and Boeing expansion will draw even more of our people seeking job opportunities.

The final consideration is the toxic relationship we have



Hard decisions will be made in the coming years about the home of CPN.

with the City of Shawnee. For 16 years we have faced racism and hate in our dealings with the Shawnee city government. The present litigation with the Oklahoma Tax Commission - initiated by Shawnee - and the illegal annexation of tribal trust land into the City of Shawnee has cost us more than \$1.5 million in the last six months. The city furnishes no services to us - no water, sewer, power, police, roads or public facilities. All they have done is create antagonism, which I believe is race-based. If that situation does not change in the 2016 municipal elections, we have more at risk in staying here than the move would cost.

We should consider continuing to maintain some of our facilities here, but the present expansion budget set by the tribal legislature for roads and facilities is in excess of \$35 million for 2016 alone. If we stop those projects and redirect our money and ef-

orts to facilities located in a community that values the 2,400 jobs we have created, we are better off in the long run. It is a matter of weighing our new potential against the future cost. I will keep all of our people updated on the outcome of the analysis. If you are from Shawnee or know anyone who is in your family who can vote, the 2016 election is very critical for our future. We need to help elect a city government that is not hostile to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Five seats are up. The two seats that are not up for re-election are held by fair-minded people who can be trusted to do the right thing.

It is an honor serving as your tribal chairman.

Migwetch,

John Barrett (*Keweoge* – He Leads Them Home)



Where credit is due

Recently I received an award presented by the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce that has been designated as one of Shawnee's most prestigious public service awards. The press notation reads that the honor is awarded to citizens who have more than 10 years of service to the community and have demonstrated their ability to overcome adversity, contribute to the development of local youth and

Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

are active local political and civic affairs. I am extremely honored and humbled by the award. I have received other awards in the past, *which leads me to the real reason for this article.*

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is one of the most respected and appreciated organizations in the area. I stood before a group today at our CPN Cultural Heritage Center to give a welcome to the Oklahoma State Board of Health members for their regular meeting. The attending audience was filled with impressive citizens consisting of health care providers, clinical professionals, public health officials and community leaders.

As I welcomed the group to our great Nation, I felt obligated to at least give a short

overview of our cultural heritage center. I spoke to the audience about opening its doors in January of 2006. I gave the purpose of the center, which is to educate our tribal members on their heritage and culture. I further stated that I believe Kelli Mosteller Ph.D. is doing an excellent job in meeting that objective. The center, however, has also taken on another role. For the last 10 years, the center has been the "home" to countless organizations for special, regular and annual meetings. So many people in that room expressed their appreciation for the use of such a grand meeting place as the "Long Room."

In addition, at least a dozen people thanked me for what the tribe does community-wide. People throughout

the area often express their appreciation for the presence of our tribe in regard to countless activities.

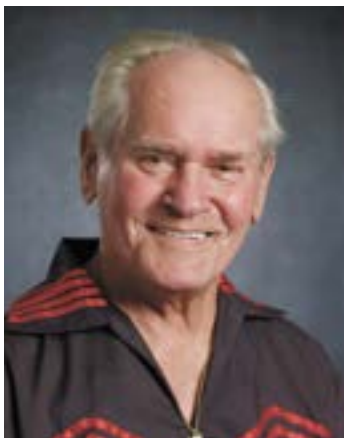
I believe that CPN sets the bar in numerous areas including employment numbers, economic impact, health services, transportation, social/human services, facilities and the list continues. If you are a CPN member or an employee of the Nation, people in this community take notice. The glory of being affiliated with our tribe creates an avenue for recognition. That recognition is because of our services, enterprises, governmental programs and the people that work day-to-day at putting their best foot forward. Our employees are the reason that CPN provides excellence in all endeavors.

In closing, I wish to express

my deepest appreciation to the members of our tribe and the employees of our work force for helping me to receive the public recognition that I have throughout the years. That recognition is due to my affiliation with this very respected and appreciated organization.

As usual, I cherish the opportunity to serve as your vice-chairman.

Linda Capps
Vice Chairman
405-275-3121 office
405-650-1238 cell
lcapps@potawatomi.org



District 1 - Roy Slavin

Bozho Nikan,

I mentioned in my last article that I was looking forward to March 21 as I would be hosting a Cub Scout Troop at my District 1 CPN office. They were visiting because one of their merit badge requirements is to learn something about Native Americans. This was a small group, only four boys around the age of 10 along with their troop leader and parents.

They were especially interested in our language and

history. They wanted to learn how to count to at least 10 in Potawatomi. I provided each with a paper with the Potawatomi words for the numbers 1-10 and another paper with the words for different colors and helped them with the pronunciation. We also talked about our history and the Removal Period. In return they sang a scout song with many inspirational words for us and gave the scout oath. I was honored with a coin they gave me. On one side is the scout oath, "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country, and to obey the scout law: to help other people at all times: to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight."

On the reverse side in the center is the scout symbol and the words "A scout is



The visiting Cub Scout troop.

reverent, trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean."

Great words to live by. I hope they got as much from the visit as I did. In the picture the boys names are William Heflin, Mccade Mummey, Sam Taylor and Kyle Brown. The scout leader on the far

right is Brian Heflin of the Bear Den.

I want to take this opportunity to mention that District 1 and 4 are joining forces for a joint meeting May 21 at the Ararat Shrine at 5100 Ararat Drive, Kansas City, Missouri from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Take Interstate 70 to I-435 South and exit at Eastwood Park-

way. Go to Ararat Drive and turn right, this will take you directly to the parking lot. There will be staff members to direct you to the meeting.

As always I will close this article with a plea for your contact information. If you have never received email from me it is because I do not have your contact information. Please send it to:

Citizen Potawatomi Nation
6730 Tower Drive
Kansas City, MO 64252

Migwetch for allowing me to serve as your representative.

Roy (*Netagtege*)
(Always Planting)
roslavin@potawatomi.org



District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

er's Day. That timing has seemed so fitting to me and I have been thinking about planning something similar for a while now. Nashville is one of District 2's large population centers and therefore a good place to start the tradition. Please look for details on timing/specific location on my website (www.evamariecarney.com, under 'Calendar'), via postcard mailed from Shawnee, and via email and Facebook postings. Please send me your email address if I don't already have it!

The latest District 2 contest is something of a bust, which means your entry is much needed! This year's theme is *Words of Wisdom* – one District 2 entrant will receive a very beautiful Pendleton blanket, though folks outside the district are welcome to submit entries. I'll publish in my *Hownikan* column some of the winning entries, and then put everything together

in a book for an end of year mailing in December 2016. If you are sharing a particular Potawatomi's words of wisdom (e.g., a grandparent's) it would be great for you to include the source, context and Potawatomi family name. There is no limit on the number of entries, so please keep them coming in through Fri., April 15, 2016 by regular mail, email or Facebook messenger.

The Potawatomi Leadership Program currently is accepting applications, the deadline for which likewise is April 15, 2016. If you are enrolled with the CPN, have a GPA of 3.0 or better and are between the ages of 18 and 20 and will have completed no more than one year of college by this summer, you really should seek admission to this program! All the program details, and the application form, are at <http://plp.potawatomi.org/>. I am happy to answer any

questions you or your family may have about the program and to share my enthusiasm for this opportunity to spend six weeks this summer in Shawnee learning about your Nation!

Two cases in the U.S. Supreme Court that raise tribal sovereignty issues have raised my particular interest, since they specifically involve protecting tribal youth and Native women. They are *Dollar General Corporation v. Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians*, which was argued in December, and *United States v. Bryan*, which has not yet been argued. My summary of the issue presented in each appeal and the litigants' arguments is on page – of this *Hownikan* edition. (It also will appear in the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia's quarterly newsletter.) Please watch this column for updates on these important cases. And If you

are interested in keeping up to date on Native legal issues you might consider signing up for the Turtle Talk Indigenous Law and Policy Center Blog, posted by Michigan State University College of Law. (Google "Turtle Talk Indigenous" for the web address.)

Please note my new mailing address. I have closed my CPN office downtown and opened up a PO Box for mail. Have laptop will travel! My phone numbers remain the same. My best for a delightful spring and *migwetch*/thank you for the honor of representing you.

Kind regards and *bama pi* (until later),

Eva Marie Carney
Ojindiskwe
Legislator, District #2
ecarney@potawatomi.org
Toll Free: 866-961-6988
evamariecarney.com



District 4 - Jon Boursaw

Kansas City, Missouri. The Ararat Shrine is located off of I-435 at Exit 65 (Eastside Drive), which is just south of I-70 on the east side of Kansas City. Turn west on to Eastside Drive then right at first light which is Ararat Drive. You will immediately see the Ararat Shrine building on your left. Please park in the back, there will be staff available to direct you to the parking area. We plan to have the normal agenda topics as well as a couple guest speakers. This meeting is for the convenience

of District 4 CPN members living in eastern Kansas and the greater Kansas City area, but it is open to all CPN members and their families. Please RSVP if you plan to attend by contacting me at jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org or 785-861-7272, so we can have an accurate count for the catered lunch. This is a beautiful facility in which to hold the meeting and we look forward to seeing you there.

CPN member completes an outstanding collegiate ca-

reer: Ron Baker has been an outstanding member of the Wichita State University basketball team for the past four years. Ron, a member of the Navarre family, is from Scott City, Kansas where he led his high school team to the Class 3A title in 2011. After graduation he was a walk-on at WSU where he redshirted his first year. As a redshirt freshman he started the first 10 games before suffering an injury that held him out until the NCAA Tournament the following spring. In the following three years Ron has consistently been one of the

leading scorers and rebounders on the WSU team. The following are only a few of the highlights that Ron and the WSU team have accomplished during his career at WSU: four consecutive Missouri Valley Conference titles; four trips to the NCAA Tournament, advancing to the Final Four in 2013; one undefeated regular season (35-0) and a NCAA tournament win over in-state rival Kansas University Jayhawks. We congratulate Ron on his outstanding ac-

Continued on page 22

Joint districts 1 and 4 Meeting May 21: District 1 Representative Roy Slavin and I will host a joint legislative district meeting on Saturday, May 21 at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Ararat Shrine, 5100 Ararat Drive, in

District 4 - Jon Boursaw

complishments and career at WSU and sincerely wish him well in his future endeavors.

Suspected Native American burial site: As this goes to press I've been asked to assist the State of Kansas ar-

chaeologist in determining the validity of a claim that a plot of land, that is proposed to be the site of a sub-division in Shawnee County, may contain Native American graves, possibly Citizen Potawatomi. I have request-

ed the Shawnee County Commissioners not take any further action until this determination has been completed. I will report on the final determination on this matter in future *Hownikans*.

Migwetch,
Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkoh*
CPN District 4 Rep.
(O) 785-861-7272
(C) 785-608-1982
2007 SW Gage Blvd

Topeka, KS 66604
jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org
Office Hours:
Tuesday 9-11 a.m.
Thursday 3-5 p.m.
Other times - Please call



District 5 - Gene Lambert

cally accomplish that goal. Discouraged in that truth, they started to wonder why God would not give them the gifts so many of their friends have.

After many tears and prayers they changed discouraged and disillusioned to their answers.

"We can adopt."

Within a few months they were blessed with Three Precious Miracles.....Three Native American babies in need of parents.

How exciting. It all happened so fast. It is as if they were just waiting for their

parents to bring them home from the hospital. (Because they were.)

Overwhelmed with joy, this young family began to blossom as the Creator would have it.

They aren't questioning God's decision any longer and have now begun to help Native American foster children with non-tribal foster parents by offering cultural training for their children.

The very first event's turnout resulted in more than 150 people wanting to learn how to keep tribal culture alive in their children.

More than 10 Arizona tribes contributed to the event in blessings, dancing, drumming, drawings and storytelling. Even the Citizen Potawatomi Nation was there through donations and our interest in Native foster care.

This couple now knows the why, and that is where TPM came from and where they are going at an accelerated pace.

It is about our children and continuing the stories and traditions as it has always been, "Roots and Wings."

The Creator has the answer

even when we don't think so. The right answer!

Our difficulties in life often wind up being our teachers simply so we can teach others.

Living as many years as I have, I now know everything you experience is important and you will assist others not as far down the road as you might think, or even at the least expected time.

Take care and cherish life.

Eunice Gene Lambert

District 5

euniceilambert@gmail.com



District 7 - Mark Johnson

munities across the country. I will never forget the day in 1975 when I had the opportunity to visit the home of Thomas Balenquah, a Hopi Indian from Old Oraibi on the Third Mesa in the Hopi Reservation in Arizona. With us was Gib Hunter, a Mono Indian from California. Thomas and Gib talked into the night, both in their native language, able to understand one another enough to carry on a conversation. It just goes to show that even with vast differences in culture and environment, the Native peoples of this continent will always have the tread of commonality that binds us together.

I am quite often asked about benefits that are available outside of Oklahoma for tribal members. One of the lesser know is the State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife, Free Low Income Native American Sport Fishing Licenses. Free licenses are available only to Native Americans and their descendants who have resided in California for the last six months, have not been convicted of a violation of the Fish and Game Code, and have a household income which does not exceed the federal poverty guidelines. Form FG371 can be picked up at any State Fish and Wildlife office or online

at their website, and you will need your tribal ID card.

Don't forget that applications for the Potawatomi Leadership Program close on April 15. Information including the application can be found at plp.potawatomi.org.

Also, if you plan to attend the annual Family Reunion Festival (June 24-26) and Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations (July 28-31) in Shawnee, time is getting short to make your reservations and travel plans, gather up your relations and make the trip, we all look forward to seeing you there.

As always it is an honor to serve as your district representative, please contact me if you need any information on the services and benefits due to you as a tribal member.

Migwetch / Thank You,

Mark Johnson / *Wisk Mtek*

(Strong as a Tree)

Representative, District 7

1565 Shaw Ave., Suite 202

Clovis, CA. 93611

(559) 351-0078 cell

Mark.Johnson@Potawatomi.org

Bozho nikanek
Hello Friends,

In my last column, we explored the cultural resources available to members here in the district, and even though not specifically targeted to the Potawatomi culture, similarities exist amongst many of the Native American com-



District 8 - Dave Carney

niece Susanna Basappa and my nephew, Adam Basappa. Both gave the program high marks and both felt that they had built relationships that will go well beyond their summer in Oklahoma.

As a legislator, I have been asked by young members to write reference letters that can be included in their application packet. I do this with pleasure, especially when asked to do so by a young student I met in my travels around District 8..

Our 2015 District 8 participant was Mr. Blake Collins of Boise, Idaho. Lydia Davison, a recent graduate of the University of Washington was a PLP

participant in 2014 and an intern at CPN in 2015. Lydia gave an excellent Power Point presentation at last year's Fall Feast. I've "borrowed" a bit of her information to share in this column:

The standards for application:

- Enrolled member of CPN
- Current GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Age 18-20 with no more than one year of college completed
- Application open around beginning of March and closes April 15th
- 8-10 students chosen

Program basics:

- 6-week program duration
- Weekly stipend of \$60 is paid and an additional \$1,680 upon completion of the program
- Travel, food, and housing are paid for

Students work through rotations throughout the program to and learn about what the department does, how it assists tribal members or earns revenue for the Nation. In a typical week, participants might rotate through the Nation's housing department, accounting department, legal department, environmental services

and golf facilities. Of course, during the Family Festival, all participants are integrally involved in making that annual event a success.

If a young person in your family meets the standards and has an interest in learning more about the tribe's affairs I would strongly recommend the program. The best source of further information is Education Director Tesia Zientek and the best way to reach her is tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org.

Migwetch,

Dave Carney (*Kagashi*)

dcarney@potawatomi.org

360.259.4027

Get the *Hownikan* via email!
If you would like your newspaper via email, please email your name and address to hownikan@potawatomi.org and let us know.



District 9 - Paul Wesselhöft

How can this be?

John Updike, the great Pulitzer Prize winning author, was given the daunting task of publishing in a single volume, *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*. The publisher and editors gave Mr. Updike over 200 of the

most awarded and recognized American short stories to select from. The publisher has published *The Best American Short Stories of the Year*, every year, which is a volume of many stories in itself. Updike's monumental volume narrowed down the best short story published in each year from 1915 to 1999.

I have read all of these provocative and entertaining short stories; several are my favorites. In his volume, Updike wrote a ten-page introduction extolling the virtues and significance of each decade, the great writers of that decade, and their contribution to this

particular literary art form. The short story is the quintessential American literary art form.

As I read through the introduction, I was enlightened and delighted to learn many of those ingredients which make a short story great. However, as I came to the bottom of the last page of his introduction, I read a sentence of 16 words, which broke my heart:

"I regret that no story about Native Americans could be worked into the table of contents."

How can this be?

So, from thousands of the best short stories published throughout the twentieth century, Updike, the editors, and the publisher could not find one story about Native Americans worthy of inclusion in, *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*.

Again, how can this be?

As my political career in the Oklahoma House of Representatives comes to an end this year because of term limits, I have made the decision to pursue a last career of creative writing, and particularly fiction, the short story, and poetry. I have applied to several

universities wishing to earn a Master of Fine Arts in Creative writing.

These universities require that the applicant submit short stories for evaluation. I have submitted five such short stories and each is about Native Americans.

Even though John Updike broke my heart, he has also challenged me to pursue a career as a Native American writer who often writes, but not exclusively, about Native Americans.



District 10 - David Barrett

Bozho

"All my relations"

Aho Mitakuye Oyasin...A simple but profound Lakota Prayer. These words mean "All my relations."

To pray this prayer is to petition God on behalf of everyone and everything on Earth. *Mitakuye Oyasin* honors the sacredness of each person's individual spiritual path, acknowledges the sacredness of all life (human, animal, plant,

etc.) and creates energy of awareness which strengthens not only the person who prays but the entire planet.

"All my relations" is an expression that asserts the basic philosophy of many Native Americans, according to which plants, stones, animals, sky, earth, moon, spirit helpers, ancestors, and most significantly the Great Spirit are related. Good health results from harmony between all beings.

The Potawatomi word for this phrase is *jagenagenan*. Potawatomi use this term in many of their ceremonies. *Jagenagenan* is frequently used in prayers or can be spoken as a one word prayer also.

I encourage you to keep in mind we are in relationship to everyone and everything around us, whether we feel we

are actively participating in it or not. Being humans, being our authentic selves, all the time, benefits everyone.

This mindset reflects people who are aware that everything in the universe is connected. It also reinforces that everyone and everything has a purpose, is worthy of respect and caring, and has a place in the grand scheme of life.

Richard Wagamese wrote "All my relations" is about respect. It's not uttered in a casual way nor is it meant to be. Because when you say those words, you mean everything that you are kin to. Not only those who look, talk, act, sing, dance, worship or pray like you. Everyone. You also mean everything that relies on air, water, sunlight, and the power of the Earth and the universe for sustenance and perpetuation. It's recognition of the fact that

we are all one body moving through time and space together.

June Kaminski writes about the First Nations relationships embrace of the notion that people and their families are strongly connected to communities they live in, their ancestors and future descendants, the land they live on, and all of the plants, animal and other creatures that live upon it. They know they are stewards of the earth. The interconnected relationship with all living things is called the Sacred Circle of Life. First Nations teachings guide us to show respect for all within the Sacred Circle.

Greg Mackie wrote that human beings and other animals are very good at telling relatives apart from strangers. Now, a recent study has shown for the first time that plants

can do this as well.

When I heard these words spoken, I always wanted to ask what they really meant. So by doing some research, now I have more understanding and boy does a few words mean so much. Hope you will research even further. This is only the surface and I am limited to space.

It goes without saying, thank you for allowing me to represent you and our great Nation.

Migwetch,

David Barrett/*Mnedobe*

(Sits with Spirit)

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.

Shawnee, Ok 74801

405-275-3121

District #10 Oklahoma

(State wide)

DBarrett@potawatomi.org



District 11 - Lisa Kraft

Gentle Giants

In the background of many of our experiences around the FireLake complex are tall figures more than a century old. I am of course speaking of the numerous pecan trees found on our tribal properties as wide ranging as FireLake Golf Course to the House of Hope.

A few years ago, to capitalize on the growing demand for pecans, CPN began farming them. Some of the harvest could be purchased at FireLake Discount Foods, while others were sold to shellers and later taken to market. For years, China bought a huge portion of the world's pecans.

In 2009 alone, they bought one quarter of the U.S. crop. With China's slowed economy, this is no longer the case.

Our tribal pecan trees continue to produce, but CPN has reached a share cropping agreement with Derick Johnson Farming. They bring in the pecans that our trees produce and prepare them for sale on the market. We, the tribe, in turn, receive rental income from a percentage of what the Johnsons are able to sell in a year.

CPN-owned pecan trees are situated in groves as opposed to manmade orchards, and can be found throughout tribal property. The average age for a tree to be harvestable is from 5-7 years, but their yields aren't significant enough to turn a profit until they are mature or at least 12-15 years old.

Tribal Land Operations staff member Blaine Littleton, who is a graduate of the Oklahoma State University Pecan Management Course, tends to the

trees as part of his regular duties, including brush hogging, hay baling, tree clearance and maintenance. Bill Everett, a CPN tribal member, oversees this enterprise for our Nation.

While the market for pecans isn't what it was a couple years ago, there may be some positive signs on the branch, so to speak.

According to the website ThomasCountyAg.com, based out of pecan-producing Georgia, a possible change in something called the Federal Marketing Order for pecans could help boost their sales. According to the blog post, "Another important aspect that many of the naysayers are probably not considering is the potential of the Federal Marketing Order (FMO) for pecans, and the impact for domestic consumption."

Federal marketing orders for pecan have been attempted in the past, but the program was not fully supported. If the FMO does indeed get the

votes it needs from industry committee members and appointees by the Secretary of Agriculture, pecans will, for the first time, have significant funding to launch a national marketing campaign on par with some of the other tree nuts, like almonds and peanuts.

Marketing orders, overseen by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, ensure high quality and inspection of the product, standardize packaging, regulation of the market, and provides overage offerings as commodities when there is too much product to keep pricing stable. Another great benefit of FMO for pecans will be Federally-funded production, disease, and insect research as well as product marketing grants. Our Nation is so successful at researching, writing, and securing federal grants that this will no doubt aid in the maintenance and expansion of our pecan farming enterprise.

For many of us though, our

pecan groves hold more sentimental value than they do economic. We have danced under their canopies for generations and countless members have learned and played golf under them throughout FireLake Golf Course.

One thing is certain, these gentle giants and their offshoots have stood sentry over the Citizen Potawatomi people and our seat of government and commerce for decades. With the growth and expansion of our community of FireLake and new residential considerations, may our leadership always be mindful of the continued survival of our pecan groves.

As always, I am thinking Potawatomi.

Lisa Kraft (*Zibikwe*)

Oklahoma Tribal Legislator

(District 11 - Statewide)

Lisa@CopperBearConsulting.com

Johnny H. Parrish

Johnny H. Parrish age 90, of Gulf Breeze, Florida passed away on Sept. 30, 2014.

John was born Nov. 24, 1923 in El Dorado, Arkansas and attended Jack School near Anadarko, Oklahoma. John graduated from Anadarko High School then served his country in WWII. Following his Army-Air Force stint, he re-entered Civil Service and in 1959 was transferred to Pensacola Naval Air Station. He and his bride, Bettye, made their home here, raised their daughter Jonna here, loved and enjoyed life here, and treasured their Florida friends like family while surrounded by the shimmer of the Gulf Shore waters. John retired from Civil Service after a 42 year career then enjoyed traveling, RVing with family and friends.

John was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years Bettye Parrish, his daughter Jonna Stall, brother Richard Parrish, and his parents Tullie and Lucille Parrish.

John is survived by his brothers, Alfred Parrish of Sacramento, California, Cloyd Parrish and wife Judy of Claremore, Oklahoma, sister-in-law Lavada Parrish of Cordell, Oklahoma, son-in-law Bill Stall of Gainesville, Florida, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Burial services were held Oct. 2, 2014 with Reverend Gerald Munday officiating at Rose Lawn Cemetery. The family suggests that donations be made to the Missions Fund at Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church, 75 Fairpoint Drive, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32561.

Leldon Levern “Bumper” Macon



A celebration of his life was held on Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2015 at Palms Funeral Home in Angleton, Texas. Graveside services were held at Angleton Cemetery.

Leldon was preceded in death by his parents: Levern (Curly) Macon and Alma Hair Macon; grandparents and other family members.

Survivors include his sister: Cheryl Macon Jez and husband AJ of Alvin, Texas; niece: Jennifer Grizzle Kenney and husband Cody and children; nephews: Jeff Grizzle and sons, Jay Grizzle and wife Heather and daughters; aunts: Ina Stratton of Lake Jackson, Texas and Betty Hair of Independence, Missouri; uncle: Henry Hair and wife Karen and fam-

ily of Houston, Texas and numerous relatives.

Leldon loved playing dominos and was an avid Dallas Cowboys fan. He was also a member of the Potawatomi Indian tribe of Shawnee, Oklahoma.

May we all be drawn closer to the true meaning of Christmas as we ponder over the loss of our sweet Leldon, a true man of courage.

Services were lovingly fulfilled by Palms Funeral Home in Angleton, Texas.

Online condolences can be sent to the Macon family at www.palmsfuneralhome.com

Laquetta Joy Webber



Laquetta Joy Webber of Tampa, 78, passed away Jan. 25, 2016.

She was preceded in death by her husband: Dale Webber. She is survived by her son: Russell Colin Webber; sister: Wanda Ferrish of Brandon; brother: Frank Meyers of Boise, Idaho; as well as her niece: Diane Barjohn and nephew: Leslie Glass along with their children and grandchildren.

Laquetta was born in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Her mother was Alice Melot Thayer and her father was Martin Van Thayer. She was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Indian Nation. Laquetta was a long time resident of Midwest City, Oklahoma and graduated from Midwest City High School.

Laquetta worked for the Social Security Administration and traveled around the country for many years. She retired in Florida to be close to her family and was a long time res-

ident of Odessa. She was involved with her husband, Dale, in the Friends of Florida Folk organization. Laquetta was a long time member of the Miniature Art Society of Florida as well as past president. Laquetta left us with many beautiful miniature art paintings.

Laquetta believed in her Heavenly Father and knew she would one day sit by his side along with her family. She loved her family, especially her only son, very much. She will be missed by those who knew her.

Jamie M. Kindt



On Dec. 3, 2015, our beloved mother, wife, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend went to be with our Lord Jesus quietly in the arms of her family. She was born Jamie Maudine Whittet Feb. 7, 1933, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, the daughter of James Erwin and Lola Maude (Henderson) Whittet.

Jamie met the love of her life, Lynwood Kindt, and they married June 1, 1954. She loved the Lord and taught us his ways. She attended Oklahoma State University and as most would certainly figure, majored in music. She played the piano all of her life, mastering any instrument or art that she set her mind to learn. She was a true artist.

She was a proud elder of the Potawatomi Nation, a Native American Indian, (now you can see where her fiery spirit and great skin came from) where she was named Mnomdweket (meno med wek ket), which means “Makes Beautiful Music”. We know God had a plan when she touched our lives for what seemed a brief moment-but a lifetime. Our hearts are broken and we haven’t yet figured out how to live here

without her. However, her spirit is all around us in everything we see.

Jamie is survived by her devoted husband: Lynwood Kindt; her two beautiful daughters: Jennifer and Jamie Lynne; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, which were blessings to her and they adored her. We were given a special gift to have known her. She blessed our lives with her loving tenderness.

Stacey Lynn Devous



Stacey Lynn Devous, 49, of Fairfield, Illinois died at 4:18 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, 2015 at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville, Indiana.

She was born August 7, 1966 She spent her life as a waitress and a cook.

She is survived by: a daughter: Ryan Elizabeth Devous of Fairfield, Illinois; a son: Benjamin Devous of Terre Haute, Indiana; her parents: of Fairfield, Illinois; a sister: Debbie (Mike) Oberlee of Marshall, Illinois; brothers: Tracey (Leslie) Wilson of Fairfield, Illinois and Kevin (Kathryn) Wilson of Frankfort, Illinois and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services for Stacey Lynn Devous were held Thursday, Dec. 31, 2015 at the Johnson & Vaughn Funeral Home in Fairfield, Illinois with burial in Maple Hill Cemetery.

Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to hownikan@potawatomi.org.

CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.

Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must

be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.

For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email CClark@Potawatomi.org.